A CENTENNIAL CONSULATE.

On the tenth of May 1800, Isaac Cox Barnet of New Jersey, first signed his name as the Register of the American consulate at Bordeaux, France as "Consul of the United States of America, District of Bordeaux." Since that time, this consulate has been open for business without interruption, Sundays and holidays excepted. On the tenth of May, 1900, therefore it concluded a century of continuous operation.

"What of it?" may be asked. Nothing except the fact that it is the only consulate in the world that was ever able to claim such a record and there may be some who can spare time enough from the detraction of all things American, which is the distinctive disease of our people, to recognize that it is by no means a discreditable thing that our flag should be the first in the world's history to wave uninterruptedly for a hundred years over a consulate in a foreign land. If it had happened to a consulate of another great power, England, Germany or France, the world could not have been permitted to forget either the fact or its significance. But our government has shown little interest, less indeed than most others, in an event which demonstrates the almost incredible fact, that for an entire century, the commercial relations between our ports and at least one city of the old world have not been interrupted for a single day. Some may even go so far as to wonder why this state of affairs in exceptional; why other commercial nations have not had centennial consulates by the score and why Bordeaux alone of all our consulates in Europe, is entitled to that distinction? The answer to these questions is found in one of those international episodes, which history, the most unreliable jade that ever formulated a lie to conceal the ignorance of a narrator, finds herself too busy in misrepresenting national relations, to record.

Why should it not be so? The consulate, at best, is an anomalous product of modern civilization. Whence it came from, by whom devised, what are its functions, no one [illegible] is able authoritatively to declare. Roughly speaking, a consul may be defined as an officer of one government, charged with infinitely varied and vaguely defined

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GEORGE WASHINGTON President of the United States of America

To all who shall see these Presents--Greeting

Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the abilities and integrity of ISAAC COX BARNET of New Jersey, I have nominated and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, do appoint him, Consul of the United States of America for the Port of Brest in France and such parts as shall be nearer to the said Port than to the residence of any other Consul or Vice-Consul of the United States within the same allegiance; and do authorize and empower him to have and to hold the said office and to exercise and enjoy all the Rights, Pre-eminences Privileges, and Authorities to the same of right appertaining, during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being, he demanding and receiving no fees or perquisites of office whatever, which shall not be expressly established by some law of the said United States: and I do hereby enjoin all Captains, masters, and commanders of ships, and other vessels, armed or unarmed, sailing under the flag of the said States, as well as all other of their citizens, to acknowledge and consider him the said ISAAC COX BARNET, accordingly. And I do hereby pray and request the French Republic, its Governors and officers, to permit the said ISAAC COX BARNET, fully and peaceably, to enjoy and exercise the said office without giving or suffering to be given unto him any molestation or trouble; but on the contrary to afford him all proper countenance and assistance. I offering to do the same for all those who shall, in like manner, be recommended to me by the said French Republic. IN TESTIMONY whereof I have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed. GIVEN under my hand at the city of Philadelphia this Twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, and of the Inde-pendence of the United States of America the twenty first.

(L.S.)

~~By the President of the U.S.~~ G.WASHINGTON.

~~Secretary of State. TIMOTHY PICKERING.~~

By the President of the U. S.
Secretary of State — Timothy Pickering

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functions within the territory of another. A hundred years ago he was hardly recognized as an official. He was then a confidential agent charged with half-defined discretion. In most services he retains the discretion of early days, but has been given official status. In our system he has been advanced in rank but deprived of discretion. He is the only person in our government who is by law, deprived of any right of appeal, petition or redress against a superior While other nations have increased his discretion our policy has swn swung towards absolutism. While others have sought to make him a mor effective official, we have sought to make him a petty clerk. Because of his dual relation and ill-defined duties, the consul is always the least esteemed and worst sustained class of officials. The less he does the better and the more he tries to do the worse for him. His efficiency is measured, not by his zeal in urging the rights of his compatriots, but by his success in persuading them to renounce their rights. No government is bound by his acts and rarely feels under obligation to sustain him in the performance of his duty. If his course is approved by his own government, it is almost certain to be disapproved by that to which he is accredited. He is always between Scylla and Charybdis. In the diplomatic service an official knows he has his government behind him; in the consular service he has no such assurance.

Considering the dual nature of his function it is little wonder that consulates are of uncertain tenure. Men are rare who can successfully serve two masters. Not only must two nations be at peac with each other, but there must be no antagonism in the community in which he resides against the country whose commercial interests he represents.

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functions within the territory of another. He is not allowed to speak for his own government nor even to address a petition to the sovereign authority of that to which he is accredited. It is hardly two centuries since he had any official existence at all and even now, he has no rights which any government is bound to respect. His government may disown his acts without question and that to which he is accredited may withdraw his exequatur without explanation. He represents in all cantries the lowest grade of officialdom.

It is little wonder that consulates are of uncertain tenure. Two nations must not only be at peace with each other in order that a consulate may keep open doors, but there must be no public sentiment in the community where he resides hostile to the country whose commercial interests he is charged to promote. It may seem a little thing that two great nations should be at peace with each other for a hundred years; but as a matter of fact, it is so rare that no country of Europe has ever been able to keep on the right side of another European power for anything like that period during modern times. Indeed the map has been so constantly changing that it is no easy task to trace the boundaries and designate the governments which have claimed juris diction over the same areas at various times. Every war naturally closes the doors of all the consulates of the belligerents in both countries. When Napoleon controlled the continent of Europe every British consul had to take in his flag. The Crimean war closed all the Russian consulates in England, France, Italy and Turkey and all those of the allies in Russian territory. The Austro-Prussian, Schleswig-Holstein and Franco-German wars served to close any consulate xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx of European powers on the continent which might have escaped the Napoleonic cataclysm, if any such there were. In short, a careful investigation reveals the fact that no European government has, or ever had, a consulate in the territory of another European power for anything like a hundred years in succession.

But peace between the two powers to which a consulate is related is not the only thing that interferes with its continuity of operation Disturbances may arise affecting the consulate itself which serve to close its doors. In 1854 a United States Judge in San Francisco, or-

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dered the French consul at that port to be brought into court to testify. The act was clearly in violation of the treaty between the two nations. The French government very properly ordered the consulate to be closed until the United States made apology and reparation which was promptly done. Forty-odd years later, a French posse, having a civil writ, entered by force the domicile of the American consul at Bordeaux, in equally plain violation of the treaty. The act was of a peculiarly inexcusable character, being made in the face of the most strenuous protest and the violence exercised towards the consul and his family being aggravated by the illness of that official and openly expressed contempt for the flag which was thrust aside to affect an entrance. The court which had issued the writ under cover of which the entrance was made, was obliged to cancel it as being void for lack of jurisdiction. The matter was at once reported to the State Department and after more than a year, the consul was informed that it was being "considered in due course." Fifty years ago, a man claiming to be a creditor of a retiring consul seized the books and papers of the consulate and his successor reporting the matter and asking what he should do, was told that he could "probably persuade the claimant to surrender the books and papers belonging to the United States." What he did the records do not reveal, but as the consulate kept right on and has still its ancient records in an exceptionally good state of preservation, it is evident that the exceptional celerity of the United States in backing down and its extreme slowness in demanding reparation for violation of treaty rights, have been distinct elements in the continuity of the consular relations. An English or German consulate would have been suspended instanter on the occurrence of such an act unless apology was at once offered. The policy of the United States since Washington's time, has been almost universally apologetic towards great nations, however much it may bully little ones.

The character and fortunes of the city where a consulate is located, has also a great influence on its longevity. Some cities are always in trouble. If there is a war they are sure to be a storm-center. If not beseiged or permanently attached to another nationality

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they may be dominated for a greater or less period by some foreign power which ~~for a time~~ subverts the authority of the nation to which the consul is accredited and so destroy the force of his exequatur and compel the cessation of his functions. If an English general, who took possession of Bordeaux after the downfall of the first Napoloon, had not expressly declared that he acted not for his own government but in behalf of that which might be organized to succeed "the Corsican" and authorized all "foreign consuls" to continue the exercise of their functions, our consulate at Bordeaux would have experienced a break which would have deferred the celebration of its centennial for sixteen years. During all her history, Bordeaux has been pre-eminently peaceful. No other city of the old world approximating it in size and importance has known so little strife. Once, in an almost pre-historic age, it was nearly destroyed. Once again it was beseiged. During the English occupation it was the base of almost yearly operations against neighboring provinces but the tide of war rarely surged about its gates or left the stain of blood in its streets. After that time, its only fortification was the Chateau Trompette, built by the French king not for its defence but to overawe the city and prevent its recurrence to English rule, to which it was inclined, not from any sense of loyalty or preference for England but because it thereby secured a better market for its wines. The people so hated this great citadel with its frowning bastions and guns directed cityward, that as soon as the king released it to them in the early part of this century, they tore it down with feverish haste and out of the materials built dwellings and warehouses and especially the great "chais" in which millions of barrels of wine are stored.

Bacchus rather than Mars has been the tutelary deity of the city which for centuries has been the greatest wine-mart of the world; but it has been a peaceful, commercial Bacchus--a Bacchus with a pen behind his ear rather than a roystering, frenzied god whose wit was dulled by wild orgies. Thrifty, given to tasting rather than guzzling, Bordeaux is not only one of the most peaceful but perhaps the most or-

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derly city of its size in the whole world. One may dwell here for years and hardly note a drunkard on its streets. Despite the tradition of Gascon excitability, there is an absence of boisterousness that not only surprises but often shames the visitor from across the sea.

The gray city, built of the soft, friable sandstone which underlies the whole region, is probably the best goverened metropolis of a quarter of a million inhabitants in the world. Here people "sifflez", and "consupez" and "à bas" perhaps as vigorously and with as much variety of purpose, as those of any other city in France; but only the soft air is gashed by their patriotic frenzy. The "emeute" rarely amounts to anything serious. Like the vinous fermentation which so quietly proceeds in the vast galleries under her streets and mansions, the excitability of her people shows itself in gentle ebulitions rather than in destructive outbursts. There are no dangerous heights or perilous depths in her architecture or her public sentiment. Five stories is the limit of her most aspiring edifices and the victories of peace not war receive the applause of her people. Montesqueieu, Montaigne and Tourny are the favorite sons whose statues adorn her parks. She is proud of her quays, and her merchants and her municipal administration. The very character of her products has given a conservative bent to her commerce. She is not aggressive in her ideals. She does not send out her sons to conquer the markets of the world, but waits for the merchants of other lands to come, taste and buy. She is an entrepot rather than a center of enterprise. What she is now, in spirit and character she was a hundred years ago.

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But Isaac Cox Barnet was not the first to exercise the function of Consul of the United States at Bordeaux. On the 7th of June 1790 the first President had appointed Joseph Fenwick of Maryland to tha that office, and he began the exercise of his duties on the 4th of ū July, 1790, as appears from the records of this office, though it was not until the 7th of April 1791 that he filed a petition with the municipal authorities of Bordeaux, to be recognized as consul of the United States, by virtuee of his commission and the orderof the king transmitted through the Admiral of France on the 24th of the preceding December. By the courtesy of M. Cousteau, late Mayor of Bordeaux this application and the action of the Conseil Municipal ordering the registration of Mr Fenwick as consul, were hunted up in the confused record of that time and a copy presented to the writer, who desires to make special acknowledgement of M. Cousteau's kind assistance in unravelling the early history of this consulate. It is curious to note the phraseology of this record, by which registration was granted of the commission of "Consul de la Nation Americaine a Bordeaux," accorded to him by the king, "sur la pattente du General Wazingthon, president des Etats-Unis d'Amerique."

The world was in a turmoil then. The British ports were not only difficult of access, but England looked with resentful eye upon the new rival of her ocean trade. Her laws were harsh; her courts unfriendly and her trade hampered by hard conditions. The first American craft to enter this port after the consulate was established was a "Bee", followed the next day by two "Elizas". Then came "Washingtons", Congresses", "Constitutions," "Nancys," "Bettys", "Bostons" "Lexingtons," and hundreds of others, whose homely names tell the-st story of patriotis impulse or domestic devotion of our new national life. They thronged the friendly roadstead until it seemed a star-spangled forest. During the first ten years of the consulate thirteen hundred and fifty-one American craft entered and cleared from this port. The writer had been the consul at Bordeaux for three yea years and only one ship's papers have come into his hands--the papers of a pleasure yacht. Our trade with this port amounts to many millions dollard a year but not a pound of it is carried in American bottoms.

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The peace-loving Bordelais had not only commercial tendencies but popular enthusiasms. We are accustomed to speak warmly even yet of our political obligations to France for aid and sympathy during our revolutionary struggles. Despite the fact that the action of th the French government was largely due to antagonism to Great Britain,it constitutes the most remarkable ~~xxxxxx~~ instance in history of international co-operation based on popular sympathy. The "revolution" was germinating in France and our Declaration of Independence was in singular accord with the "declaration of the Rights of Man" which was soon to be written in blood on a wonderful page of history. Liberty was in the air of France and the Girondins had Southwest France had always been a fertile field for given form to Gascon inspiration. From the Albigenses to the Giron free thought.
dins the tendency has been toward individualism to an extent unequa led in any other community except Switzerland. It was at Bordeaux that the popular inpulse toward American political and commercial affinity reached its climax. It was in her hated chateau Trompette that Lafayette was imprisoned by the king to prevent his starting on his Etopian venture in aid of the new world Republic. It was fro from its dungeons that he was liberated by the citizens in almost open defiance of the royal will and hurried through the quagmires and forests of the Landes to the fromtiers of Spain whence he sailed alone to bring the first message of old world sympathy to our shores.

It was from Bordeaux that Rochambeau and De Grassy sailed to give material aid to the struggling colonies. Their ships were manned with stout Gascon sailors and the soldiers they brought with them were mainly volunteers from the Sud-Ouest.

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bring material aid to the struggling colonies. Their ships were manned with Gascon sailors and the soldiers they brought were mainly volunteers from the Sud-Ouest.

It is not strange. The Huguenots who had thronged to the American colonies were mostly from these provinces and they were a potent element in the struggle for liberty. Their kinsmen were anxious to enlist in the great conflict with them. Paul Jones was one of her gallant sons. The greatest of our merchants of that day, Stephen Girard, was born in sight of her clustered roofs. The feeling between the struggling Republic and the people of the monarchy which was tottering to its fall was already strong. The glare of the Revolution which would have been spared its bloodiest hue had the wisdom of the federalist Girondins prevailed rather than the frenzy mob of Paris, was already showing on the horizon, when our seven years of war was ended by the victory of the combined forces at Yorktown.

To the Bordelais, this was of peculiar signigicance. It was in a sense, their victory. They celebrated it by naming one of their streets, "La Victoire Americaine"; to another they gave the name of "Lafayette", to another "Franklin". These names they still bear. That Bordeaux welcomed our first consular representative with enthusiasm may well be imagined. Their records speak of him as "the friend of Washington and Lafayette," and one of the landing slips on its splendid quay still bears the name of "Fenwick." When we recall that this is a favorite method in French cities of expressing the sentiments of their people and remember that many ~~of them~~ streets have changed their names over and over again during the century, it is some thing of which every American should be proud that four of the thoroughfare of Bordeaux still attest the attachment of her people to the American republic. France ~~had given~~ gave her hand to the new nation; Bordeaux ~~had given~~ gave her heart also. To-day many of her citizens recall with peculiar pride the fact that an ancestor was with Rochambeau or De Grasse, not merely because it was a glorious page in French history, but because it marked their participation in the founding of the American republic.

It is a regrettable fact, that while our government has always

did in fact prevail. But neither the Congress nor the French government made the formal declaration which precedes civilized warfare.

The underlying cause of this,was the Jay-Treaty with England, which was not only obnoxious to France,but very unpopular with the American people. Only the overwhelming influence of Washington secured its adoption. The French government assumed the right to dictate our relations with England and did not hesitate to denounce Washington as a tyrant and a traitor for his action in the premises

Despite the perturbed relations between the two countries the consul at Bordeaux seems to have maintained his popularity with officials and people. He was no doubt one of these Americanx official at that time not unfrequent in our foreign service,who sided with the French government rather than with their own. This is not so strange as it might seem. There was not an atom of modern toadyism in it. Love for an ideal France,hatred of England and belief in the French ideas of liberty were its sole elements. Things grew worse and worse with every year until they reched the climax in 1798. War was regarded as inevitable. Washington was appointed commander-in-chief and,with his usual seriousness,made his acceptance of that high office an occasion to recount the actx of the French government which made war unavoidable if we would maintain our national honor. Still,there was a large minority in Congress and among the people who were inclined to side with France,regarding the Jay-Treaty as sufficient to excuse if not to justify the course of the French government. That some of our consuls and representatives in France entertained the same view is beyond question. The mere fact that France was a Republic inclined the American people to sym pathy. Washington was blamed for not having adopted a more conciliatory course. Mr Adams,stung with the recriminations both of the French government and his own opponents in the United States,refus ed to send any more representatives to France or permit any officia communications therewith.

The consul's life must have been a busy one at Bordeaux. An average of three vessels a week ought to have left him little leisur

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for the discussion of public affairs. In addition to the regular routine,he had a vast number of protests to prepare and register. Every captain of an American vessel captured by French corsairs,entered at the consulate his "protest against winds and waves and especially against French corsairs,pirates and despoilers"; against blockades,embargoes and all forms of unlawful violence and overpowering force. Some of these,dictated by indignant captains and owners,are as fine samples of rough eloquence as can be found. Even after a century the sonorous lines and quaint spelling still move the reader to indignation. There is evidence that three great volumes were filled with these,but only a portion of one is now extant. The consul had also to look after his countrymen imprisoned as pirates,because they had goods of British manufacture or sugar and molasses from the British West Indies aboard their ships. Scores of American vessels were seized and confiscated and hundreds of American citizens and sailors were confined in the national fortress,or at the consul's solicitation,permitted to go to foreign ports to seek a passage back to the United States,bankrupted by the seizure of ships and cargoes,and crushed by the hopelessness of restitution After the lapse of a century,our government has paid to the great-great-grandchildren of some of them a modicum of the money it received from France for their reimbursement.

Mr Fenwick was not only efficient as the representative of the United States at the most important port of France,but also a very successful business man,and of no little social and political prominence. In the autumn of 1798,when summoned to Paris by Skipwith, then our consul-general there,he was probably the wealthisest American resident in France,maintaining an establishment at the capital city as well as at Bordeaux. His sympathy with the French government and opposition to the policy adopted by the United States was well well-known. It is strange that one taking so prominent a part in condemning the course of his government should have expected to continue as its representative. The explanation is no doubt to be found in the fact that the actual independence of the United State

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was a thing almost impossible for the European mind to conceive. France regarded our war as,in effect,trandferring the colonies of Great Britain into French dependencies. By far the larger part of our representatives abroad seem to have shared this view. There is no doubt that Mr Fenwick was entirely sincere and patriotic. He regarded it not only good policy but the bounden duty of the United States to stand by France in her conflict with England and her allies,because France had aided us in our struggle with the mother country. It is quite possible that such claim would have been allow ed,had not the arrogance with which it was urged made it impossible for any self-respecting nation to recognize such demand. Washington despite his self-control was not a man to be trifled with and the insolence of Barras and the almost incredible acts of the notorious Genet,were little ca;culated to induce one of his character to inti mate alliance with "the Terror."

The arrogance of the Directory at length brought matters to a crisis and Mr Fenwick's official relations with the United States were summarily concluded. Of this,only the following quaint entry remains:

"Agreeably to the letter officially written by Timothy Pickering Esq.,Minister and Secretary of State in the United States of America,to Jh.Fenwick Esq under date of Dec 15,1798,received from Mr Murray Esq .,Minister plenipotentiary of the U'd States to La Hague,and handed in Paris the 8th inst,by Mr R'd Skinner to Mr Fenwick,who forwarded it to me immediately,I have put an end to all consular acts,certificates and transactions and closed this and all other consular books & Registers,at Bordeaux this 17th May,1799.

Cr Hospital,
late Chancellor of the American Consulat in
this office and now,this day out of functions

There is something pathetic in the declaration of the "chancellor or official clerk of the consulate,that he was out of a job. After nine years,eight and a half months,the consulate of the United States at Bordeaux was closed. What were the precise contents of Mr Pickering's letter of December 15,1798 to Mr FenWick are not known, but a letter of his of the same date to Mr Isaac Cox Barnet of New Jersey who had been commissioned Consul at Brest by President Washington on the 20th of February,1897,no doubt reveals its purport.

A copy of this commission and the letter of Mr Pickering are

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found on the second page of a book described as

"Register of the Agency of the United States of America
at Bordeaux.
"Book commenced on the sixteenth Day of July in the
"Year One thousand, Seven hundred and ninety-nine (1799)
"the twenty-fourth year of the Undependence, &c."
"I.C.B."

This was written exactly two months after the chancellor had formally recorded the closing of the consulate.

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B C — The following is Mr. Pickering's letter.

Department of State. Philadelphia Dec. 15th 1798.

Sir,

The President of the United States has accepted the resignation of Fulwar Skipwith Esq. of the office of consul General of the U.S. in France, and revoked the commissions of JOSEPH FENWICK Esq. Consul for Bordeaux. NATHANIEL CUTTING Esq. Consul for Havre, and WILLIAM VANS Esq. Consul for Morlaix. Hence, the only Consuls of the United States remaining in France, are yourself, M. DOBRÉE at Nantes and M. CATHALAN at Marseilles. The latter is continued the [redacted] Agent of the United States for Marseilles and all the French Ports on the Mediterranean. M. DOBRÉE's intelligence, his fidelity and zeal in protecting the interests of the United States and their Citizens, since French armed vessels have been committing depredations on American Commerce, have procured for him the esteem, respect and confidence of our Governement. If his Exequatur should be withdrawn by the Directory, Mr. DOBRÉE is desired to continue the Agent of the United States, for the relief and protection of their Citizens, and to extend his cares to all the Consular districts from which the Consuls have been dismissed, as herein before mentioned, with the exception of the District of Bordeaux, if you chuse to remore thither from Brest. But you cannot be commissioned as Consul for Bordeaux: for, as the President does not think it proper to receive any new Consuls from France, and has revoked the exéquaturs of those now in the United States, he cannot nominate a new Consul to reside in France. But, as the Agent of the United States at Bordeaux, you can afford probably equal aid to American Citizens who need relief and protection, while a wide field will be opened for your commercial pursuits and, looking forward to an adjustment of our differences with France, your Agency at Bordeaux, if approved, as I doubt not it will be, will naturally introduce you to the Consulate. Your acquaintance at Brest will enable you to select a suitable Agent to attend to the citizens of the United States who may fall into that port and District. When you

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remove to Bordeaux, it will be expedient for you to call on Mr. DOBRÉE at Nantes, and arrange matters with him so as to prevent any interference in your respective agencies;- For necessary expen-
-ditures in relieving American seamen, and aiding the captured in the prosecution of their claims, you may draw bills on the department of State at any sight which you find most convenient. In yielding this relief and assistance, you will use all practicable economy; pecuniary aid is to be afforded to such only as have not the means of helping themselves. It will be advisable to take duplicate vouchers for all your expenditures, of which one set may from time to time be forwarded, as good conveyances present; the other may be retained for your final settlement; whenever you draw, it will be agreable to receive your account of expenditures to which the draughts apply.
I am, Sir with respect and esteem your most obedient Servant,

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

ISAAC COX BARNET Esq.
Consul of the United States
at B R E S T.

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As neither M.Dobret of Nantes nor M.Cathalam of Marseilles seem to have accepted the change of function implied by this letter,its effect was to leave Mr Barnet the only person in France having an unrevoked consular commission from the government of the United Sta States. As he at once closed his consulate at Brest and came to B Bordeaux,to assume the duties of "unofficial agent" his exequatur was not withdrawn. To this accident is due the fact that the centenniate of continuous operation of the consulate fell upon May 1o, 1900. When the Directory fell in December 1799 and Napoleon Bonaparte came into power as First Consul,there was a radical change of ~~seeking~~ policy as to the United States. Both policy and inclination led the great arbiter of French destiny,to seek,if not alliance at least the friendly neutrality of the the United States. His American policy had two elements:(1) To dispose of Louisiana to the United States with the double purpose of strengthening that power as a commercial rival of Great Britain and to avoid the necessity of defending French territory so remote from attack by British naval power.(2) As an essential pre-requisite of such transfer of territory to restore commercial relations with the United States and provide for the settlement of existing claims for the spoliation of American commerce.

The remarkable foresight of this wonderful man was never more clearly displayed than in the adoption of this policy. The single sentence in which he justified the sale of Louisiana is a prophesy which the closing years of the XIX century have made singularly luminous.

"This accession of territory," he declared to Marbois," establishes forever the power of the United States and by it I have given to England a maritime rival who, sooner or later, will humble her pride."

In seeking to re-establish friendly relations with the United States,the First Consul proceeded at once to revoke the acts by which the exequaturs of American consuls had been withdrawn except in the case of French citizens holding such appointments. This act had of course no effect upon those whose commissions had been for-

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mally revoked by their own government. Its only effect was to restore to Mr Barnet his former status as a Consul of the United States of America, and ~~direct~~ cause that all officers of the French government should recognize him as such.

By appointing an "unofficial agent" at the most important port in Europe so far as our commerce was concerned, ~~while cancelling all other commissions and withdrawing the exequaturs of all French consuls in the United States~~, our government not only left the status of Mr Barnet unique, but reverted to the system of tolerated emmisaries, which during the Middle Ages, sovereigns were wont to employ in other countries to secure the redemption of subjects held for ransom and other similar purposes--~~important but unofficial agents~~ whose acts it was easy to affirm or deny as occasion might require. From this system the consular system of the present day. The selection of Mr Barnet for ~~this~~ such a position was not only a compliment to the studious, myoptic son of the New Jersey Surgeon-Major who had won the friendship of Washington by unflicnching faithfulness to duty, but was an added testimony to the remarkable capacity so frequently displayed by our first president in the choice of agents for a special work. It was a superlatively trying position in which to be placed--the secret unofficial agent of a country on the verge of war with that in which he was to act and as the successor of one who had achieved unusual, perhaps unprecedented popularity among a people quick to resent affront to their favorites.

It is a curious record that his "Register" presents of a modest persistent man securing without official recognition or popular favor, what his country's ablest diplomats were unable to achieve. The names of more than three hundred American citizens released fro from prison and more than a score of American ships saved from condemnation attest his efficiency. Little by little the local authorities came to recognize his personal character and long before he wa was recognized as consul, he was accorded all the privileges of that office.

Not once during that time however, did he subscribe himself as consul. "Agent of the United States," "Unofficial Agent," "Agent charged with consular duties at Bordeaux," all these we find used

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as occasion might require to secure the best interests of those he was charged to aid and protect. That he used his own credit lavishl for his fellow-countrymen, there is abundant evidence. It was not however, until Napoleon had ordered his official recognition that he assumed the title Washington had authorized him to bear. On the 10th of May, 1800, for the first time he subscribes himself at the foot of one of the pages of his Register, "Consul of the United Stat of America, in and for the District of Bordeaux," Always after that he used the same or an equivalent self-description.

For more than a year he was the only American in France entitled to use that designation. How deservingly he bore it, the unstinted commendation of such men as Pinckney, Monroe and his grim old chief, Pickering, fully attest. "One of the best consuls we have ever had in Europe," is the universal testimony. Without orders cut off from all connection with the department, by the exercise of a sound discretion, he did more that any one believed it possible that he should do and received as his reward the open violation of the express promise made to him by the Secretary of State, that he should be appointed consul at this post when friendly relations were restored between the two governments. Peace was made by treaty betwee France and the United States, on the 30th of September, 1800; ratifications were exchanged July 31, 1901 and it was proclaimed December 21 1801. In March 1801, Thomas Jefferson became president with a "knife up his sleeve." To have been the friend of Washington or Adams was equivalent to a death-warrant to an officer however capable. He could could not wait until the ratification of the treaty to show his animosity for the faithful servant who had been selected by Washingtn trusted by Adams and who instead of devoting himself to advancing his own interests by commercial opportunity as the Secretary of State had advised him to do, had given all his resources to the relief of his countrymen. On the 7th of June 1801, against the entreaty of such men as Pinckney, Pickering, Monroe and others who knew th the story of his rare service as "unofficial agent", Jefferson appoi ed William Lee of Massachusetts to the place which had been solemn-

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ly promised him in consideration of that service. The wheel had tun turned. Skipwith was again made consul at Paris and as far as possible those whom Adams had removed were restored, except Fenwick who had by this time practically renounced his American character.

William Lee who served from 1801 to 1815, through the trying period of Napoleonic wars, the paper blockades and embargoes, the "orders in council", the "Boston and Milan Duress," which placed American ships on the footing of pirates was a man of very different type from his predecesso. His records are by no means as full and he seems to have realized that the ideal consul is not the man who most seduously seeks to remedy the wrongs of his countrymen, but one who brings the fewest possible cases to the attention of his government. Probably no consel of any government ever had so many complaints of unjust treatment by the government of which he was accredited and found a way to adjust so large a proportion of them without formal protest. Perhaps as our government waited until the third and fourth generation before adjusting claims that were proved, it was just as well. Despite this fact Mr Lee failed to receive such recognition from the people of Bordeaux as his predecessor.

During the century there have been seventeen successors of Mr Barnet, who oddly enough is not recognized by our State Department as ever having been consul here at all. Technically, this is correct. He was only a consel of the United States, sent to Brest then ordered to Bordeaux and recognized as our consul there by the French government. Of his seventeen successors, two did not qualify; one resigned after three months and another after a year. Two served fifteen years each; one ten years; three eight years each; seven have served four years each. Scarcely anything of note has occurred during that time in the consulate, except that one consul, undoubtedly the most faithful and efficient of them all, is remembered with a rancor that is almost inconceivable, for having reported to his government a commercial fact which was then stoutly denied, but which is now admitted by all. He is said to have been removed to another post for this act which should have been rewarded with promotion rather than blame. Among the curi

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ous incidents of this century of consular existence/Mr Lee records that he was for one time the only recognized consular official at Bordeaux. There were probably unofficial agents,but this fact shows how easy it is for a consulate to suffer a break in its continuity and how remarkable it is that one should celebrate a centennial of uninterrupted operation. Even in this case,our diplomatic relations with France were entirely broken off in 1834,during Jackson's administration,but the fact seems not to have interfered with the consulate,the business of which went on without interruption and no reference to the fact is found in its records.

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