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ADVERTISEMENTS

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Mr Carters Visit to La Grange Concluded.

On our return from this delightful promenade, and after resting for a few minutes, we were merely consigned from the hands of no part of the family, to receive the assiduous attentions of another. The General himself accompanied us to the farm yard, which is a place of peculiar utility, is more interesting, especially to the eye of an American, than all the parks and pleasure grounds we have seen in Europe. A range of buildings extend quite round an open area, containing, perhaps, an acre of ground. The first of these is the granary, which was once a chapel, and the turret of which is yet left standing. Men were at work in winnowing wheat of an excellent quality. The second department is appropriated to all kinds of poultry, among which are wild geese from the banks of the Mississippi, a flock of about a thousand geese, prettily feeding at their long ranges of cribs, occupied another portion of the buildings. It was odd enough to see the hero himself dining upon the construction of a new kind of piggery, upon a plan recommended in the American Farmer. Among the twenty-two cows, are eight from Switzerland, sent to the General by his friends in that country; and four of the Holkham breed, presented by Mr Patterson, of Baltimore. The assortment of horses is as extensive as the other kinds of domestic animals. In making the circuit, we next came to the farm-house kitchen and dairy, the walls of which are ornamented with a map of the whole plantation designating the ground appropriated to each department. Then follow the pens containing several rare species of animals, among which are wild turkeys and partridges from the United States (intended, if possible, to be domesticated,) ducks which came as a present from the Garden of Plants, at Paris, and a pair of beautiful Mexican Pheasants. For the latter, and for the American partridge, a new house is going up, to be artificially warmed by a stove. To these animals, may be added a dog from Washington, and a raccoon from our forests, who are inmates of the chateau instead of the farm yard. The latter is so tame, as to play about the parterre, and climb up into the General's lap.

At 5 o'clock, the bell called us to dinner, which was bountiful, and served up without any formal parade. Among the peculiar dishes were lentils, much resembling boiled peas; and a rich kind of pastry, such as we had not found in the infinite assortment of a Paris table. A sort of apples, pears, and dry fruits, with

three or four varieties of wine, including champagne, crowned the festivities of the board. The General entertains no doubt, that the grape from which the latter is made would flourish in the United States, but whether the wine could be produced is more problematical, as it is confined to one province in France, and depends much on a peculiar quality of the soil. It is, however, my intention to send home slips of the vine, by way of experiment.

On retiring to the drawing room, a large folio volume, bound with red morocco, and richly gilt, was found lying upon the table. It was presented to the General just before he sailed from Washington; and contains a transcript of all the addresses to him by the authorities of New-York. The specimens of ornamental penmanship are certainly elegant, and have excited general admiration at the Chateau. By its side was a voluminous portfolio, containing portraits and autographs of public personages in France since the commencement of the revolution—both brought out for our amusement.

After tea the ladies favored us with a great variety of songs and music upon the piano, which they play with much taste and skill. One of the number, finding that her voice and execution could contribute to the enjoyments of the social circle, and forgetting herself in endeavoring to add to the common stock of pleasure, continued to sit at the piano until she was solicited to leave it, instead of the ordinary request to remain longer. This mark of politeness was so peculiar, that it appeared to me worthy of record and imitation. Among the musical pieces, was one or two composed in the United States, during the General's visit.

At 9 o'clock in the evening, we manifested an intention to return to Rose that night, and set out for Paris next morning, desirous that if the hospitality of the family were not already exhausted by a visit, which seemed too long for strangers who had no other claim than simply that of being Americans, a share of it might be reserved for others, upon the republican principle of equality. But at La Grange, feelings of generosity and kindness towards even the humblest citizens of the United States, know no bounds. Favour after favour descends spontaneously upon the visitant like the dew; and in view of the paternal affection manifested on this occasion, our country might address to its illustrious benefactor the forcible apostrophe—"inasmuch as thou hast done it unto the least of these my children, thou hast done it unto me." Pretexts as plausible as genuine hospitality requires, were urged with a politeness that could not be resisted, and the result was a happy prolongation of our visit.

After breakfast on the following morning, the General conducted us to his library, which is on the third floor, in one corner of the chateau. The windows, which in summer are shaded by a copse of trees lifting their aged branches from below look in two directions, and command a view of a rural domain, such as Cincinnati or Washington would have enjoyed, and such as its own proprietor would not exchange for an empire. In the anti-chamber, and the apartment itself, are several likenesses of his friends, transatlantic as well as European; and in several neat cases, on which the utmost care has been bestowed, are deposited all the little presents he has received from our countrymen, from the sacred memorials of his beloved Washington, down to the humblest pledges of gratitude and esteem, collected in his late tour.

The whole makes an extensive museum, which is guarded with more vigilance, and is shown by the family with more delight, than would apparently be felt in exhibiting the costliest collection of diamonds. All the articles were taken out of their places for our inspection; and the history of them detailed with a familiarity which proved how much they are valued. One of the most conspicuous of these memorials is a beautiful model of the waterworks at Philadelphia, which the General took to pieces, to point out the ingenuity of its construction.

The library itself contains about two thousand volumes of well selected books. A large proportion of these were presented by his friends. One compartment is filled entirely with American works containing a majority of our best publications. Additions are daily making to the collection by the attentions of his correspondents. The Phi Beta Kappa Oration of Mr. Everett, and the Address of Webster before the Bunker Hill Association, are cherished among the choicest treasure. It was a curious incident, that I should here recognize the copy of the Columbiad which had been brought to me at New-York a year previous, for examination as a specimen of splendid binding, before it was presented to La Fayette.

Having passed an hour or two in the library, and glanced at its interesting contents, we took another long walk with the ladies over the farm, pursuing a different route from what had been taken on the preceding day and treading many a bye-path in a long circuit through the woodlands. A keen December air imparted an additional tinge to complexions naturally rosy; and to the eye of a poet, some of our fair companions, in their rambles through tangled copse and groves of oak might have seemed like Druids. In the course of this promenade, one of the daughters of General Lafayette gave me a circumstantial account of his imprisonment at Olmutz, and of the sufferings both himself and family. The story is long and its leading incidents would not be new to any of my readers. One little anecdote, however, which gave relief to the tragic tale, so much amused me that I cannot forbear to repeat it. In their flight through Germany, the female part of the General's family were obliged to assume the guise of English travellers, in order to elude the vigilance of their enemies. As they had some knowledge of the language, to which was added a similarity of national dress, they succeeded tolerably well among strangers. At length they were thrown in contact with an English waiting maid who had emigrated to the continent some years before. Serious fears of detection were here apprehended. But the poor girl entertaining no doubt that the ladies were really English, although she found difficulty in understanding them, and as they were supposed to have left her native country at a much later period than herself, she came to the melancholy conclusion, that by a long residence abroad, she had lost her mother-tongue!

In the midst of walks, conversations, and enjoyments like these, the hour of dinner again came round. By this time, our places at table had been as perfectly learned, as if we had become permanent inmates of the Chateau. Another evening of music and social pleasure was added to the sum of our happiness. At 8 or 9 o'clock, an intention was again signified to go to Rose, in readiness for the diligence the next morning. But this would be madness to go to the hotel that night, where the accommodations were not good; besides, it was snowing,

and the weather was unpleasant: a servant should be sent to engage places for us, and it would be easy to reach the village by 8 o'clock, the hour for the departure of the coach on the following day." In vain were any suggestions opposed to these kind persuasions; and at 10 o'clock, we retired for the third night to the chambers of the Chateau.

The next morning at 7, we found both the General and his son in the drawing room before us, with coffee upon the table, and his own coach at the door, in readiness to take us to Rose. In a few minutes more, a cordial grasp of the hand and the parting benediction of the patriarch, produced a state of feeling which on our part admitted a few words; and we left La Grange with a full conviction, that if there is a paradise on earth, it must be found in the domestic, and if unalloyed happiness be the portion of any mortal, it must consist in the luxury of such feelings, and in the practice of such virtues as are possessed by General Lafayette.

FOREIGN

FRANCE.—The Augsburg Gazette states, that a coolness had arisen between the French Cabinet and Court of Rome, and adduces as a proof of it, that the Etoile was interdicted for about a month in the coffee houses and public rooms. It says that the Pope has made to the French Government energetic representations in favor of the Greeks. The dissatisfaction of the Court of Rome is said to have been occasioned by the declaration of the French Prelates, the prosecution of the abbe de la Mennais, the interdiction of an Ecclesiastical Journal, &c.

Lieut. Gen. Livron, one of the principal agents of the Pacha of Egypt, has been for some time at Paris, where, it is said, he has had frequent conferences with the President of the Council.

SPAIN.—Great changes have taken place in the new Spanish ministry. A plot has been discovered at Aanjuez, and several persons arrested.

The *Indicateur* gives the following extract of a letter dated Irun, July 2:—"It seems certain that the order for the evacuation of the strong places occupied by the French troops has been countermanded. It is even said that a politico-sanitary cordon will shortly be formed upon our frontiers." The *Memorial* says, after intelligence from the frontiers of Spain of the same date:—"It is a fact that the French garrison of St. Sebastian was ready to evacuate the place on the 1st inst. as it had been settled between the two Governments. In pursuance of fresh orders, however, not only the French troops will continue to keep the fortresses which they now occupy, but a corps of observation, consisting of 15,000 men, will be collected upon the banks of the Adour. We are informed that at Bayonne the repair of camp offices is proceeding with activity a quantity of gunpowder was sent thither from Pampeluna. Is a new sanitary cordon to be formed there, as was the case 4 years ago?"

New-York Aug. 21.—The ship *Exlio*, from Havre for New-York, has arrived in the Sound, and some of her letters and papers have reached the city. We are indebted to a commercial friend for Havre papers to the 20th, and Paris to the 18th ult. inclusive, in which, however, we find nothing of particular interest.

The Paris papers say that such instructions have been despatched to Hayti, as will have a tendency to settle all difficulties between the two governments.