

Alexander von Humboldt in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON March 7th, 1804, Alexander von Humboldt, who had been traveling in the New World, left Vera Cruz, Mexico, for Havana, on board a royal frigate, to secure collections left there by him for safe keeping in the year 1800. After a stay of nearly two months in Havana, Humboldt sailed on April 29th for the United States, accompanied by two friends, — Bonpland and Carlos Montufar. In the Channel of Bahamas they encountered a severe storm, which lasted seven days, but were mercifully preserved, and finally, after a voyage of twenty days, arrived safely in the harbor of Philadelphia.

Under date of May 28th, 1804, President Jefferson wrote to Humboldt, inviting him to visit Washington.

On Friday, June 15th, 1804, Humboldt arrived in Lancaster, where he remained until the following Monday.

The Lancaster Journal of Saturday, June 23rd, 1804, contained the following:

“On Friday, the 15th instant, Baron de Humboldt, with two Spanish gentlemen, his fellow-travelers, arrived in this borough from Washington, and on Monday following set out for Philadelphia.

“Mr. de Humboldt is a Prussian, and has recently completed a five years' tour through South America, under the auspices of his Prussian majesty. His enterprise, perseverance and discernment, were extremely favorable to so arduous an undertaking; but other qualifications rendered this gentleman peculiarly well fitted to accomplish it with great honor to himself and interest to the public. At the vigorous age of thirty-three, with a good constitution, he possesses an accurate knowledge of the Spanish language; and unites to an intimate acquaintance with astronomy and natural history the character of a man of letters and general science.

“The baron is now on his return to Europe, for the purpose of communicating to the world the result of his travels, which we understand he means to publish in the English, French and German languages. The observations which so skilful a geographer and so scientific a traveler must have made during his long residence and extensive journeys in South America, will, it is believed, be singularly interesting. The great and important portion of our continent is little known to the world, — in respect to either its natural or civil history; and, therefore, Baron de Humboldt's contemplated work may be expected to yield a large fund of useful

information to men of science, and afford great pleasure to readers of every description."

Der Americanische Staatsbothe und Lancaster Anzeigs-Nachrichten, of Wednesday, June 27th, 1804, a newspaper published in German, as its title indicates, contained the following:

"Baron Von Humboldt, accompanied by two Spanish gentlemen, his fellow travelers, arrived in Lancaster from the Federal City on Friday, the 15th instant, and proceeded to Philadelphia on Monday [the 18th instant]."

Public Dinner Tendered to James Buchanan on the Eve of his Departure for Europe

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE friends of Lancaster's talented and most distinguished citizen, Hon. James Buchanan, anxious to testify to the respect and esteem which they entertained for his great private worth and brilliant public services, invited him, by letter, to partake of a public dinner at the Red Lion tavern, on West King street, kept by William Cooper, previous to his departure for Europe as Minister to Russia. Mr. Buchanan accepted the invitation.

The Lancaster Journal, of Friday, March 16th, 1832, informed the public that those who desired to attend the dinner could do so by signing a subscription paper, which had been left at Mr. Cooper's tavern.

The invitation was as follows:

"Lancaster, Pa.,
"March 9th, 1832.

"Hon. James Buchanan.

"Dear Sir:

"With whatever feelings of pride we received the announcement of your appointment to a high and honorable post in the diplomacy of the government, we now, on the eve of your departure from us, are forcibly admonished by the selfish feelings inspired by the ties of social endearment, of what we are about to lose in your absence. As individuals and your personal friends, accustomed to the enjoyment of your society, we regret it, but as members of the community we are bound to sacrifice every selfish consideration at the shrine of our country's welfare. This higher sense of patriotic feeling causes us to forego, with less reluctance,