

# Lafayette's Visit to Lancaster in 1825.

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The following account of Lafayette's visit to Lancaster, on July 27, 1825, is taken from the history of his visit to the United States in 1824 and 1825, written by his secretary, A. Levasseur, and copied for this Society by S. H. Ranck, of the Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Md. The translation was courteously made for the Society by Dr. E. E. Powell, of Franklin and Marshall College:

"A committee from the city of Lancaster had come as far as the city of Chester to visit Lafayette, which city we left on the 27th, after having taken leave there of a great number of soldiers of 1776, who were not able to receive the last farewell of their former General without shedding tears. I believe that I have already noted this very remarkable fact, that in both the North and the South in the United States we have met men differing in manners, customs and language, yet governed to their common advantage by the same democratic form of government and living in perfect harmony in the bosom of private happiness and of public prosperity, under the banner of the same institutions. From this observation we had been able to conclude naturally that neither the size of a State nor the difference in customs among the inhabitants of its provinces is an obstacle to the establishment of a republican form of government which is based upon an equal appreciation of the interests of all. Nothing perhaps was more calculated to confirm General Lafayette in this opinion

than the sight of the city of Lancaster, and the county of the same name, where one finds a complete union of men from all points of America and Europe, and representatives of almost all the different religious denominations, yet all equally attached to the wise institutions which govern them.

“I shall not attempt to describe the marks of attention and esteem which the citizens of Lancaster showed to their friend and guest, although they did not yield either in magnificence or cordiality to those of the most considerable cities of the Union. But I do not wish to pass over in silence the facts, which, by their nature, may serve to illustrate the unity of feeling and principles which characterize all classes of the American nation. In consequence, I shall recall here the visit of the clergy of all the communions from the surrounding districts, which, upon the news of the arrival of the General, spontaneously united and came to add their patriotic felicitations to those of the other citizens. An address was made by the Dean of the ministers (the Rev. Dr. C. L. F. Endress) in the name of all the communions, without distinction of denomination. If I should report this address it would give new weight to what I have said above on the character of the American clergy, but it will suffice for me, I think, to report only the General’s reply, in which this opinion is expressed, with a force and precision which leaves no doubt of his conviction. ‘I receive,’ he replied, ‘with profound gratitude the testimonials of esteem and good-will which the ministers in this city and surrounding places have been pleased to give me, and which you, sir, have expressed to me in a way so touching. In my happy journey through the country I have often had the oppor-

tunity to observe the veneration which the clergy of all the denominations have inspired, whose members, being the apostles of the rights of man, are always the consistent organs of a religion founded ordinarily on the principles of liberty and equality and on the election of evangelical ministers by the people.'

"Leaving Lancaster, we went to Port Deposit, on the banks of the Susquehanna, where we found a deputation from Baltimore, with which we embarked, in order to reach this latter town. On the way we visited Havre-de-Grace, a little village, situated where the Susquehanna empties into Chesapeake Bay."

Author: Le Vasseur, A.

Other Author(s): Ranck, Samuel Haverstick, 1866-  
Powell, E. E.

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