

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,  
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OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1841.

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**Augusta:**  
SEVERANCE AND DORR, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1841.

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**TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.**

**NO. 19.**

**HOUSE.**

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**R E P O R T**

**O F T H E**

**COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY.**

**O N T H E**

**M E M O R I A L**

**O F**

**ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.**

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SEVERANCE & DORR,.....Printers to the State.



# REPORT.

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The Committee on the Library, to which was referred the memorial of Mr. Alexandre Vattemare,

## REPORT:

That they have taken into consideration the proposition of the memorialist, who is a subject of the King of France, for establishing a system of international exchanges, embracing specimens of natural history, the productions of art, of science and of literature. This plan of Mr. Vattemare has been submitted to most of the governments of Europe, and has received from them the most favorable consideration and ready adoption.

The Committee feel assured that it will not require any labored arguments to recommend the recognition of this system of mutual exchanges, to the Legislature and the people of Maine. The advantages which will readily accrue to this State, from perfecting the proposed literary and scientific alliance, between this country and France and the European powers generally, will readily suggest themselves to every intelligent and reflecting mind. Maine is particularly rich in the productions of nature. Her mineralogical and geological resources have been partially explored, and prove rich surpassing conception. Her forests are vast repositories of arborial productions, and a knowledge of their extended variety is alone necessary to disclose their worth. The old countries of Europe, on the other hand, are rich in the varied productions of science and of art. The attention of the old world is

being turned towards the United States, and the desire of becoming acquainted with its native productions is constantly being manifested by the terms of liberal and unrestricted intercourse which are beginning to be proposed. An exchange of our native productions for those of perfected art, in which Europe so much abounds, would be of mutual and vast advantage to both continents.

The mission of Mr. Vattemare to this country was undertaken at the suggestion of General Cass, the American Minister at Paris, and numerous distinguished Americans resident in the French capital. They could not but be aware of the great advantage which would accrue to the United States from this "holy alliance" of literature and science and art, between the old and the new world. The intelligent people of Maine cannot be insensible of the benefits to be derived from the system of exchanges which Mr. Vattemare now offers them. For specimens gathered from the vegetable and mineral kingdoms, and which exist in profusion in our State, we may receive in return the most precious productions of European skill and genius. Shall we permit this opportunity to pass, neglected and unimproved?

The Committee have the happiness of knowing that the proposition of Mr. Vattemare has received the approbation of the American Congress, and its distinguished members give their warmest testimonials of their regard for the plan, and their high estimation of its projector. His noble scheme presents to us a new era, in which the different nations will engage in the generous strife of emulation in conferring favors and obligations upon each other. It is eminently a peaceful and a benevolent enterprize, and its success is destined to confer honor and immortality upon its author.

The Committee refer with pride and pleasure to the deep obligations of gratitude which France has imposed upon this country. In that eventful struggle which resulted in establishing our National Independence, the soldiers of France and of

America were engaged in one common cause. The services which were rendered by the gallant and noble Lafayette, are written in enduring characters upon the heart of every true American, and their memory can never perish but with the memory of the American Revolution. The name of Lafayette will exist inscribed on the same page which will bear the endeared name of Washington to the latest time. The interest which Lafayette ever manifested in this country was not restricted to the results of its struggle for liberty. Mr. Vattermare's system of exchanges found in him a ready admirer, and received his counsel and his aid. And particularly was he anxious that its benefits should be extended to this country. "The execution of your plan," said he to Mr. Vattermare, "will produce incalculable benefits in the old and new worlds."

The favors which Vattermare would confer on us, though less striking and brilliant in character, are destined to be equally honorable and enduring. It is his desire to render our freedom the means of diffusing the widest measure of intelligence, and of making our intercourse with foreign nations, the instrument for promoting the highest degree of *education among the people*.

The Committee, in accordance with their honest conviction of duty to themselves and the Legislature and the people of the State, and incited by gratitude to Mr. Vattermare for submitting to their consideration his noble and magnanimous scheme, would recommend the passage of the Resolves which are appended to this Report. They propose, in these, to exchange the Laws and Resolves and public documents published by the authority of this State, for a similar return from France and other European Governments. The system of exchanges which has been entered into with the other States of the Union, has afforded the means of making rich additions to the State Library. It is confidently believed that a system of international exchanges of the Public Laws will materially increase its valuable stores.

The Committee still further recommend that a sum not

exceeding One Thousand Dollars be appropriated, to be expended in promoting a system of exchange between Maine and the Governments of Europe, of the productions of natural history, the works of perfected art and of literature. The rich returns which will be derived by our country, whose institutions of science and literature are yet in their infancy, can hardly be appreciated or overrated. In the expressive sentiment of Washington Irving, "it is the singular operation of "the plan of Mr. Vattermare to germinate libraries and collections promptly, and almost without cost."

The state of Louisiana has made a generous appropriation of from three to six thousand dollars, for the purposes contemplated by Mr. Vattermare. It is hoped that Maine, the northernmost State in the Confederacy, will unite with Louisiana, and thus the extremes of the Union will be made to meet in friendly and honorable emulation.

In conclusion, the Committee adopt in full faith the sentiment of Mr. Vattermare, "that the system of exchanges proposed, takes nothing from any one and gives to all; it at least enables every one, by parting with that which is useless, or of little value to him, to obtain other and desirable objects; and in order to carry it into effect, little else is required than a disposition to do so."

THOS. C. LANE, *per order.*



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**S T A T E O F M A I N E .**

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**RESOLVE** to promote Mutual Literary and Scientific Exchanges with Foreign Countries.

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**RESOLVED**, That there be hereafter fifty additional copies of each volume of laws, resolves, and public documents printed by order of the Legislature, printed and bound for the purpose of exchange in foreign countries.

**RESOLVED**, That the Governor be authorized to transmit any of the above extra copies to the agents of foreign countries in the United States, authorized to receive the same for the above purpose, and that he be further authorized to make exchange of the same.

**RESOLVED**, That a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars be appropriated from the Treasury, for the collection and exchange of original specimens of natural history and productions of useful art, to be expended under the direction of the Governor for the purposes aforesaid.

STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
March 13, 1841. }

ORDERED, That the foregoing Report and Resolves be laid on the table and 500 copies be printed for the use of the Legislature.

[Extract from the Journal.]

ATTEST: GEORGE C. GETCHELL, *Clerk.*