

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

# THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

**A. D. 1843.**

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*AUGUSTA:*

WM. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.



1843.

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TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

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No. 41.]

[SENATE.

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DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES OF BOOKS, &c.

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[Wm. R. SMITH & Co....Printers to the State.]



*To the Senate*

*and House of Representatives :*

I have received a communication from Henry Ledyard, Charge d' Affaires of the United States, and Lorenzo Draper, Consul of the United States at Paris, inviting contributions on the part of this State to the "American Athenæum" lately established in that city; which is herewith transmitted.

I also lay before you a communication from Alexandre Vattemare upon the subject of international exchanges of books and public documents, accompanied by a Report made to the Municipal Corporation of Paris.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
March 2, 1843. }

JOHN FAIRFIELD.



[ COPY . ]

PARIS, February 1st, 1843.

To His Excellency,

Governor of the State of Maine,

Augusta :

SIR :—The citizens of the United States, temporary residents of this Capital, have instituted by the means of voluntary contribution, an “ *American Atheneum.*” The main object of this institution is to afford to every American visiting Paris, a place where each may have access to the principal newspapers and other periodical publications of the Union. Furthermore, in order to extend its usefulness beyond that of a mere reading room, the directors have in view both to make it a medium of communication, a sort of literary agency between societies and men of learning in the two hemispheres; and a centre of information where those of Europe may gratify their desire of acquiring knowledge on the state of society and the institutions of America.

Our Jurisprudence, it is well known, on many points is an object of studious enquiry in Europe. To mark it out to the world as worthy of example, must be our pride. To this end we are particularly desirous to collect *all Laws and Statutes* of the individual States, and, in general, every thing concerning American legislation and statistics. A complete set of State laws, to the present time, to be continued hereafter, would be invaluable at this Emporium of European knowledge, where, oftentimes, questions are propounded by jurists and other men of learning, which cannot be answered for want of the necessary references.

It has occurred to us, sir, that in stating particularly our views to you, and through you to the Legislature of your State, we might possibly obtain from its liberality, what the limited means of our young institution do not at present allow us to defray ourselves,—

and at the same time, furnish our public men at home a fair opportunity of performing a patriotic act abroad, by their contributing to an intellectual common stock, an *American Library of Useful Knowledge*.

Should you and the Legislature deem proper to extend to us the patronage to which, in the names of our countrymen here, we make the present appeal : books, and all other objects destined for this useful purpose, by being placed in the hands of either I. Carrol Brent, Esq., Washington city, or William B. Draper, Esq., No. 51 Beaver-street, New York, agents of the Athenæum, will safely reach the institution here.

We are, sir, with great respect,

Your very obedient servants,

HENRY LEDYARD,  
*Charge d' Affaires of the U. S. at Paris,*

LORENZO DRAPER,  
*Consul U. S., Paris,*

GEO. M. GIBBES,

Directors of the  
American Athenæum.



[ COPY. ]

PARIS, France, February 1, 1843.

*To His Excellency**the Governor of the State of Maine,**Augusta.*

SIR:—It is with much pleasure that I comply with a request made by the Municipal authorities of Paris, and transmit you a report recently adopted by them, upon the recommendation of an able committee, whose report, made by Mr. Edward Thayer, has also been printed.

The object of these proceedings is two-fold—*first*, to acknowledge the receipt of those works which were presented by me, in the name of your State, and *secondly*, to evince their desire to continue the friendly intercourse thus established, and interchange all laws and public documents. The works that each will receive will be rare, and valuable—those they will give, (being duplicates) will cost but a trifle:—It will therefore be for the good of both parties to continue the work thus commenced.

Many other important bodies have also signified a wish to give their publications in exchange for those of your State, but unfortunately adhering to those notions of etiquette prevalent in Europe, refuse to make the first advances unless an agent is appointed here to receive them. For many years all my energies have been devoted, to the establishment of a system of literary exchanges. It was for this I left my native land, my family, and my affairs, and visited your favored Republic—I was received in a manner that has ever caused my heart to beat with joyous gratitude when I recall my visit to mind—and, by way of return for that kindness, I intend offering my services to the individual States as their agent here—and (should they accept them) shall fill their libraries with the literary treasures of Europe.

I might tell you, sir, of the flattering manner in which the min-

isters of government and our literary societies have received my account of my visit to America—but I am preparing a document for the coming session of your Legislature, soliciting the above appointment, which will give a more detailed account than it would be possible for me to do here—and will assure the people of America that France is desirous of adding another link to the chain of friendship that binds them—it is the exchange of the fruits of genius, talent and industry in both countries.

Should you, as I am sure you will, continue to transmit your public documents hither, you will please send them *unbound*, as our institutions here, all have their libraries bound in an uniform style.

With the highest sentiments of regard for those of your citizens who so cordially received me, while in Maine, and warmly seconded my humble exertions,

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.

PARIS, 28 October, 1842.

*Prefecture of the Department of the Seine :*

SIR:—Since I had the honor of addressing you a letter on the 10th November last, the municipal corporation of Paris have taken into consideration the proposals which I had submitted to them in regard to the forwarding documents of an administrative nature, which had been transmitted to me, through you, by the State of Maine and by the cities of N. York, Boston, Baltimore, and Washington; the corporation were highly pleased with these marks of esteem and kindness towards the city of Paris, and they have requested me to return thanks for them. They have also requested me to transmit to each of the above named cities, and the State of Maine, a copy of our various administrative publications, and with them a copy of the proceedings of a meeting held on the 21st December, inst. In accordance with this request, I intend making a collection of these documents, and will forward them as soon as possible.

In the mean time I am happy to express, in the name of the city of Paris, my gratitude to the corporations of those cities, and to those citizens of the United States who have interested themselves in this affair.

With the highest consideration, I am, sir,

COUNT DE RAMBUTEAU,  
*Prefet of the Seine, Peer of France.*

MR. ALEX. VATTEMARE.

## REPORT

Made to the Municipal Corporation of Paris, 21st December, 1842, by a committee of the following persons: Count Boulay de La Meurthe, Mr. Pellassy de L'Ousle, and Mr. E. Thayer. (Mr. E. THAYER, Reporter.)

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It has been the object, for a number of years, of a French citizen, to promote an idea he had in view which might tend to the advancement of sciences and general knowledge—and he has pursued with a perseverance and disinterestedness worthy of the greatest praise, the project of establishing a permanent and regular system of exchange between public libraries and public depots, and to render valuable and of some utility an enormous quantity of duplicates now completely lost.

In 1836 and 1839, Mr. Vattemare petitioned the French Chambers on the subject. His petition was received favorably, and his system was not only approved of in foreign countries, but adopted by many of them. He has just returned from a voyage to North America, with the object of establishing his system there, and he has, at his own expense, traveled over a great part of that continent.

Everywhere he endeavored to show the importance of a correspondence with his own country under the auspices of science and civilization. He was always kindly welcomed, and sometimes received with enthusiasm.

The United States have warmly advocated this fresh opportunity of drawing closer the ties of an ancient alliance. Nations, like individuals, must become well acquainted before they sympathise with each other.

It is necessary to have in view, in a system of international exchange, those which will make known the laws and customs of each country—that is to say, administrative and statistical documents. Those published in France, will unfold to the inhabitants

of the new world, the experience of an administration which dates from the earliest times, whilst those from America will exhibit to the ancient establishments of Europe, the resources of a young people full of energy. The American Congress, the Legislatures of many of the States, and the corporations of many of the cities, are aware of the utility of Mr. Vattemare's system. Congress has ordered that fifty copies of its published documents shall be destined every year to the purposes of exchange.

Mr. Vattemare has returned to France with a considerable number of works and documents which were placed in his hands, for the Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Moral and Political Science, the two Chambers, and the different Ministerial Departments, &c. The city of Paris was not forgotten, and Mr. Vattemare has sent to the Prefet of the Seine, a great number of books and pamphlets relative to the general administration, to public works, to prisons, hospitals, pauperism, and above all, to primary instruction. These works and documents, many of which are valuable on account of their scarcity, and the great interest they possess of information for comparing our institutions with those of the United States, have been confided to Mr. Vattemare by the State of Maine, and by the cities of New York, Boston, Baltimore and Washington, and by honorable citizens desirous of contributing to this useful system; such as Mr. Lucas, of Baltimore, bookseller; Mr. David Hoffman, of Baltimore, Counsellor; Mr. Bigelow, Secretary of State of the State of Massachusetts; Messrs. Horace Mann; Dr. Webb; John Quincy, President of Cambridge University; Col. Worcester, of Cambridge; Mr. Frelinghuse, Chancellor of the University of New York; Col. Stone; Prof. Renwick; Senator Verplanck; Mr. Stone; and Mr. Peter Force, formerly Mayor of Washington city.

Mr. Vattemare, in his letter to the Prefet of the Seine, requests that the city of Paris should respond to these donations by forwarding to the cities above named, and to the State of Maine, a few statistical and administrative works and reports, to show that the city is willing to continue these exchanges, which cannot fail

to increase the good feeling existing between the United States and France.

The Senate of the United States has received from the Chamber of Peers one hundred and twenty volumes as a first transmission. The different departments of State intend forwarding to America the publications of their proceedings, and among others the Secretary of the Navy has sent a splendid collection of maps.

The city of Paris did not require stimulating by these examples to respond to them. Those documents published by the city which may present any interest will be forwarded to those places, which have so obligingly commenced these interchanges; they are enumerated in a memoir of the Prefet, and make known the different branches of our municipal administration; to these will be added the work of Mr. Baltard, representing the Monuments of Paris, and which is an important work both as regards history and the fine arts.

Your Committee which has been prevented rendering its report sooner on account of the business of the Council having been postponed, adhere to the proposition made you by the Prefet and propose to adopt resolutions worthy of your entire approbation.

The Committee propose you should take into consideration the following

#### EXTRACT

from the minutes of the Municipal Council of Paris, held the 21st of December, 1842.

#### *Present.*

Messrs. Aube, Beau, Besson, Boulay de la Meurthe, Boutron, Bouvattier, Cambaceres, Ferron, Galis, Ganneron, Gatteaux, Gillet, Husson, Jouet, Journet, Lafaulotte, Lahure, Lambert de Sainte-Croix, Lanquetin, Lavocat, Legros, Marcellot, Michau, Moreau, Pellassy de L'Ousle, Perier, Perret, Sanson-Davillier, Say, Ternaux and Thayer.

*Considering* that the memoir of the Prefet of the Seine dated August 17th, 1842, giving information, *Firstly*, of the forwarding of administrative works and documents which through the agency of Mr. Vattemare have been transmitted to the city of Paris, in the name of the State of Maine, and that of the cities of New

York, Boston, Baltimore, and Washington, and of various citizens of those cities. *Secondly*, the project of an international exchange of works and documents, the said memoir containing a proposition to present to the cities and State above mentioned, certain documents now in the possession of the city of Paris, especially the following works, viz: 1st, Accounts and Budgets of the City, of the Department, and of Hospitals. 2d, Statistical researches of the City of Paris. 3d, Historical accounts of the Cholera. 4th, a collection of the ordinances of the Prefet of Police. 5th, Decennial Reports of the Board of Health. 6th, Reports on various parts of the Administration. 7th, Monuments of Paris by Mr. Baltard. 8th, Publications of the Central Committee of primary instruction. 9th, Journal of Common Schools, reports of the Society for primary instruction.

*Considering* Mr. Vattemare's two letters dated in October and January 1842, together with the list of works presented to the city of Paris;

*Considering* that the city of Paris is sensible of the kindness shewn by the State of Maine and the different cities above mentioned and those citizens who have interested themselves in this act of civilization and that this kindness should be reciprocated;

*Considering* that the system of exchange to which Mr. Vattemare [has given] his best and most disinterested exertions, may have a very favorable effect on Literature and Science, on the fine arts, and, above all, on the *sympathy and ancient friendship* so happily existing between the United States and France;

*Considering*, also, that the city of Paris is disposed to do every thing in its power, as soon as the system of international exchange shall be completely realized;

*Resolved*, That the Prefet be requested to return thanks to the State of Maine and to the cities of New York, Boston, Baltimore, and Washington, in the name of the city of Paris, for the works and documents forwarded to it.

*Resolved*, That the Prefet be requested to transmit to those cities and to the State of Maine a copy of the above proceedings and also a copy of these Resolutions.

## LITERARY EXCHANGES.

*Resolved*, That the Council retain the right of a further consideration of the system of international exchange to be established, as soon as definite proposals shall be submitted to it by the Prefet of the Seine.

(Signed :)

BESSON, *President*.

LAFALOTTE, *Secretary*.

True copy :

L. DE JUSSIEU,

*Referendary and Sec'ry General.*





# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 2, 1843.

**ORDERED:** That 300 copies of the foregoing Message be printed, with the accompanying Documents, for the use of the Legislature.

**ATTEST:**

**JERE HASKELL,** *Secretary.*