

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1845.

---

*AUGUSTA:*

WM. T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1845.

---

---

# TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

---

---

No. 6.]

[SENATE.

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }  
Augusta, January 28, 1845. }

*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

I have the honor herewith to lay before you a copy of a communication from Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, in relation to our Foreign Literary and Scientific Exchanges, for the consideration of the Legislature, and am

With high consideration and respect,

Your obedient servant,

P. C. JOHNSON,

*Secretary of State.*

[ COPY. ]

PARIS, July 25th, 1844.

*To the Secretary of the State of Maine :*

DEAR SIR,—I was prevented from acknowledging sooner the reception of your kind and amiable letter of March 28th, enclosing the resolves of the State of Maine, and the commission from his Excellency the Governor, because I was waiting for several works that had been promised to me for the State of Maine; and was negotiating with the municipal authorities of Paris, concerning the books voted by them to the legislature of Maine, which were, by a mistake of the forwarding bookseller, sent to Portland.

I was anxious to offer the city of Portland some compensation for what I was obliged to reclaim, and I have been fortunate enough to obtain from the Prefect of the Seine, Count Rambuteau, another set of documents almost similar to those destined for the legislature. By the annexed letter to the mayor of Portland, I inform him of the circumstance; and I trust the corporation will have no objection to return the said documents to the state library.

On the 7th of November, 1842, the minister of Commerce and Agriculture ordered the seven first volumes of the quarto edition of the General Statistics of France to be given to me for the State of Maine, but as no intercourse had yet been opened between France and Maine in relation to the system of exchange, I was at a loss how to transmit the books. I therefore delivered them to Henry Ledyard, Esq., then charge d'affairs, but he having no means of sending them, was obliged to retain them in his office, where they remained until I received your letter, when I took them back into my possession, and will add them to the other books I intend forwarding you by the next packet, in a case consigned to the care of E. Thayer, New York, who will keep it until called for.

These gifts are not of great intrinsic value, but while I wish they were greater, I flatter myself that they will be considered as har-

bingers of what is to come. Most of the authors who have given me a copy of their works as a token of their sympathy towards the people of the United States, have expressed a wish that it should be transmitted to the centre of the union, that it may be useful to the whole community. In future I shall endeavor to obtain duplicate copies, and always keep one for the State of Maine.

The noble and generous example set forth by your legislature in adopting the first and only true method to attain the realization of the system of International Exchanges, has been highly appreciated in France, and has excited the strongest feelings of esteem and admiration toward the people of Maine and its enlightened legislature. Were all the other states of the union to act with the same intelligence and zeal, the whole country would soon enjoy the advantage and fecundity of this intellectual union of nations.

May I beg of you, sir, to be the interpreter of my profound respect and everlasting gratitude towards the legislature and governor of the state. Be kind enough to assure both, that so long as it will please Divine Providence to grant me moral and intellectual faculties, I shall employ them to make myself worthy of the marks of esteem and confidence they have bestowed upon one, who can boast of being—though the humblest—yet the most sincere and devoted friend to the glory and welfare of the United States of America.

Accept for yourself, my dear sir,

the expression of my warmest thanks,  
and believe me for ever your humble  
and obedient friend and servant,

ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.

Permit me to annex the following remarks elucidating the system of International Exchange, and its advantages :

At present Europe knows America chiefly through the meagre and erroneous information gained from newspapers and travelers (often blinded by national prejudice) who have visited your country either as naturalists, geographers, engineers, mechanics and merchants, or merely for the sad curiosity of examining the wretched tribes of filthy aborigines. Many of them cross the Atlantic for the express purpose of seeking for faults and ridiculous traits of

character, (as if they had not enough at home) upon which, improved and embellished, they write humorous, yet wicked books, which meet with rapid sale, even in *America*. The fact is, that most of these travelers have seen nothing but what they sought:—beasts, savages, public works, and ridiculous customs—to every thing else their eyes have been closed, for it did not answer their purpose.

I deem it therefore of great importance for the true appreciation of the institutions and people of the United States, that the legislative documents, works of science and art, and specimens of natural productions of every state, should be spread every where in Europe, but especially in Paris, whose public exhibitions should contain permanent exhibitions of American genius, realizing the patriotic hopes of the Hon. Mr. Wise, of Virginia, that expressed in a letter to me. “I delight in a plan which promises the opportunity to this young Republican Nation of displaying her charms, gifts and graces to Europe, and where she cannot, without throwing away her modesty, claim her own, too often attributed to her English mother, because of the similarity of their language, laws and religion.” For this purpose, I beg of you always to send me two copies of your legislative documents for each of the two chambers, one for the Royal Library, and one for the city of Paris,—bound. Then two unbound copies to be divided among the *nine* Ministerial Departments, giving to each what concerns their special labors, for example: presenting to the Minister of War, all bills and reports, concerning the militia—the Minister of Commerce, those on manufactures, navigation and finance—the Minister of Justice, those on laws, prisons, pauperism and crime—the Minister on Education, those on education, schools, colleges and science,—&c. &c.

The natural productions of Maine would be highly advantageous in this scientific commerce. Your squirrels, rats, mice, moles, toads, frogs, lizards,—in a word, your most common quadrupeds, birds and reptiles—the geological and mineralogical riches of your state—your plants, seeds and herbals—would be highly prized by our scientific institutions. All such objects should be conscientiously se-

lected, classified and described by qualified persons—the specimens as large as possible, and in a good state of preservation. Otherwise they do not repay the expense of transportation. Two complete collections of your mineral and geological productions will be peculiarly acceptable to the Museum of Natural History and the Royal School of Mines.

Remember that for every book, pamphlet, map, mineral or insect—in a word, for every object, however small and of little real value, the state will always receive a tenfold return, for these things increase in value, in the estimation of scientific men, in proportion to the distance from which they are sent.

I need not dwell on the importance and indispensability of the agency here—a complete establishment, with persons well acquainted with the business, to carry on the requisite correspondence, distribute properly what comes from America, and be on the alert to obtain all new productions and publications of interest to send in return. It must be obvious that such an establishment must be expensive, and I hope his Excellency, the Governor, will not deem too large the assessment on the State of Maine of one hundred and fifty dollars, for which I shall draw a bill of exchange on the State Treasurer. To conform with the etiquette of Europe, it would be advisable to address official acknowledgments (in English) to the following ministers and others:—

His Excellency the *Garde des Sceaux, Ministere de la Justice*, for the *Comptes General de la Justice Civile and Criminale de France*.

His Excellency the *Minister of Agriculture and Commerce*, for the *General Statistics of France, Agricultural Works, &c.*

His Excellency the *Minister of the Interior*, for the *Circulaires et Instructions*, and other useful documents.

His Excellency the *Minister of Public Instruction*, for his report on *Secondary Instruction, &c.*

His Excellency the *Minister of Public Works*, for the *Geological Map of France*. (This is the most magnificent work of the kind ever published, the mere coloring took six weeks, and it is the first copy ever given away.)

- M. le Comte de Rambuteau**, *Prefect du Department de la Seine*, for the works sent by the city of Paris.
- M. le Marquis de Pastoret**, for the *Historie de la Legislation des Peuples*, by his father, le Marquis de Pastoret, late Chancellor of France, accompanied by an engraving and medal.
- M. le Comte Leon de la Borde**, for la *Nouvelle description des Jardins de la France*, by his father, the late Comte Alexandre de la Borde; and several works of his own.
- M. le Viscomte de Cormeniu**, for his *Tableaux Lois*—the French code classified into different tablets corresponding to the different courts, where they are suspended affording every one an opportunity of seeing that justice has been done him. By this method, the law can do no wrong. M. de Cormeniu is a member of the Chamber of Deputies, a firm democrat, and one of our most elegant writers.

As to the other gentlemen, such as *Comte Daru Baron de Bourgoincy*, peers of France;—*Estancelia, de Lafarelle, Duvezgier, de Hauzanne*, members of the Chamber of Deputies;—*Leon, Vidal* and *Duvieu*; it will perhaps be sufficient to mention their names in a letter to me authorizing me to thank them in the name of the Executive. These letters can all be forwarded to me, and are necessary because it is customary here to acknowledge all presents. Such an act of politeness will flatter the donors, induce them and others to send more, and at the same time increase in France the esteem felt for the State of Maine.

I close these remarks with a few words on the fourth paragraph. In Europe the twenty-six states are represented by a delegate from the federal government at Washington, which is therefore regarded as the intellectual centre of action by our learned men; and although desirous to enter into more active literary intercourse with the United States, they could not understand how it could be made permanent unless there was at the capital an institution which would serve as a kind of great reservoir in which the intellectual streams of both hemispheres would unite.

A scientific institution was founded in Washington in 1840, to the existence of which my visit to America conducted if I mistake



not, although I must admit that I did not regard it favorably at its commencement, for I was afraid that it would centralize to itself all the intellectual riches of the nation, and thus prevent the formation of those public literary institutions which I desired to see established throughout the union.

But upon my return here I found this impression erroneous, for until I pointed out the National Institute as the focus of American science, I could effect nothing. No sooner did I do so, than authors and artists were eager to deposit on this central spot the fruit of their labors as a token of their sympathy towards their American friends, and many of them gave me duplicates to be distributed among those of the states who are the most desirous of entering into the great intellectual and peaceful confederation of nations I am endeavoring to establish.

I must therefore attribute a large share of my success to the National Institute, which enjoys here a respect which will add to the credit of the whole American family, and contribute more rapidly to raise their national character in Europe, and cement more strongly the bonds of union between the two hemispheres, than the united results of thousands of diplomatic transactions.

Let us then thank the National Institute! Let us do all we can to help it in its generous and patriotic efforts for the welfare of our—I must say, your beloved country.

Suffer it not to fall—for the sake of the country—for its credit abroad. The eyes of Europe are now fixed upon America, which they see and admire through the National Institute, considered by them to be the work of the whole nation. Its fall therefore would produce an awful sensation, for after what has been done, it would be supposed that the soil of freedom is not prepared to receive in its bosom the sacred and blessed seeds of science; besides, we consider the *National Institute* as the *clergyman* who has pronounced the AMEN in the *Intellectual Union* between *France* and the *United States of America*.

[ COPY. ]

PARIS, December 21, 1844.

To the Hon. PHILIP C. JOHNSON,  
*Secretary of State of Maine :*

MY DEAR SIR,—Your favor of November last, acknowledging the receipt of the documents, medals, maps, &c. I had the honor of transmitting, was received yesterday, and the amount of my draft on his Excellency the Governor, three weeks ago. It is with pleasure that I learn that the documents of the city of Paris were returned, and that the other objects have arrived safe and in good order. It is also highly gratifying to me to learn that these small tokens of our brotherly affection towards the enlightened, good and noble hearted people of Maine, have been so kindly received by the public authorities of the state. And I will joyfully fulfil his Excellency's orders, by addressing his thanks to the authors of the works not officially noticed ;—and the moment I receive the communications announced in your letter, I will present them myself to the distinguished persons to whom I took the liberty of inviting you to address official letters.

As soon as the five boxes containing the books and minerals arrive, I will distribute their contents according to your directions, and I am sure that these valuable presents will be thankfully received and honorably acknowledged.

I have forwarded this day, addressed to you, a large case containing nearly two hundred volumes and pamphlets presented to the legislature of Maine by the Chamber of Deputies—the Ministers of Justice and of the Interior. And likewise a large parcel containing the documents, &c. presented by the city council of Paris to the corporation of the city of Portland, to replace those I claimed for the state legislature. I trust you will have the kindness to have this parcel forwarded.

I am sorry to be obliged to send you many of these books unbound, but neither the Chamber of Deputies nor any of the public

offices here have the slightest appropriation for such purposes, and the immense quantity of books given by them would require such a sum for binding, that I fear it will never be granted. I therefore advise you to follow their example, and transmit your works stitched; you could employ a part of the appropriation made by the legislature for the support of International Exchanges, for the binding of books received through its medium.

The annexed copy of a letter addressed to me by our noble and high-spirited Prefect of the Seine, Count Rambuteau, one of the highest dignitaries of France, will give you an idea of his feelings towards your state. He has ever lent his powerful aid to my endeavors to establish a friendly intercourse between the two countries.

I also send a copy of a memorial I address to the governors of the other twenty-five states;—for unless they follow the noble and generous example set forth by the enlightened legislature of Maine they cannot expect me to devote my private means and time to advance their interests. \* \* \* \* \*

Whatever may be my fate, let me repeat it to you, and be kind enough to make it known, that I shall ever remember with the warmest feelings of gratitude, the good people of Maine; and as long as it shall please the Almighty to spare my life, I shall ever pray for their happiness and prosperity—as the only portion of the American union, who, after my departure from their soil, remained faithful to their promises, affections and patronage, towards their most humble and devoted admirer and friend.

May I beg of you to lay before his Excellency the Governor, and the Honorable Council of the state, the expression of my sincere and respectful homage,

And to believe me to be,

my dear sir,

Your friend and humble servant.

ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

IN SENATE, January 28, 1845.

ORDERED, That 650 copies of the letters from Alexandre Vattemare relative to International Exchanges of political, literary and scientific works, transmitted by the Secretary of State, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

JAMES O. L. FOSTER, *Secretary.*