

the signing. As the patriots stood about the table ready to affix their signatures, Mr. Hancock remarked, "We must be unanimous; there must be no pulling different ways; we must all hang together." To which words of exhortation Franklin quickly replied, "Yes, we must indeed all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

FRANKLIN IN FRANCE

The choice [of commissioners to make a treaty with France] was made on the 26th of September [1776]. One month later to a day Franklin boarded the *Reprisal* and sailed for France. The passage was stormy and the sea covered with English cruisers. More than once the *Reprisal* was hotly chased. More than once Captain Wickes beat to quarters and made ready to fight. But he reached the coast of France in safety early in December, and dropped anchor in Quiberon Bay not far from the mouth of the Loire. There he was kept by contrary winds for four days, when Franklin, weary with waiting, landed at Auray and went on to Nantes.

At Nantes he was welcomed with every manifestation of delight, and he stayed there eight days. A story is extant that when Lord Stormont, the English minister, heard that Franklin had landed, he threatened to quit France if the American rebel was suffered to put foot in Paris; that to quiet him, messengers were actually sent to Nantes to forbid Franklin coming to the capital; that they were sent by one route when it was well known Franklin would travel by another; and that, being once at Paris, Vergennes protested that the laws of nations and of hospitality would not allow him to send the old

man away. But Franklin had no wish to embarrass the ministry, and, after a few days' stay at Paris, withdrew quietly to Passy, where he ever after remained.

His arrival at Nantes had created a great sensation. But his reception at Nantes was cold and tame compared with that which awaited him at Paris. Princes and nobles, statesmen and warriors, women of rank, men of fashion, philosophers, doctors, men of all sorts, welcomed him with a welcome such as had never yet fallen to the lot of man. To his house came Turgot, now free from the cares of state, and Vergennes, who still kept his portfolio; Buffon, first among naturalists, and Cabanis, first among physicians; D'Alembert and La Rochefoucauld, Raynal, Morellet, Mably and Malesherbes, for the fame of Franklin was great in France. Philosophers ranked him with Newton and Leibnitz. Diplomats studied his answers in the examination before the commons of England. The people knew him as Bonhomme Richard. Men of letters pronounced "*The Way to Wealth*" "*un très-petit livre pour des grandes choses*," and, translated and annotated, it was used in the schools. Limners spent their ingenuity in portraying his features. His face was to be seen on rings, on bracelets, on the covers of snuff-boxes, on the prints that hung in the shop-windows. His bust was set up in the royal library. Medallions of him appeared at Versailles. If he made a jest, or said a good thing, the whole of France knew it. To one who asked him if a statement of Lord Stormont, the English ambassador, was true, he replied, "No, sir, it is not a truth, it is a—Stormont." And immediately a "Stormont" became another name for a lie. To another, who came to lament with him over the retreat through

humor" was still unborn, amid contemporaries who have left no trace of a jest, still less of the faintest appreciation of humor, all which he said and wrote was brilliant with both these most charming qualities of the human mind. Though sometimes lax in points of grammar, as was much the custom in his day, he wrote as delightful a style as is to be found in all English literature, and that too when the stilted, verbose, and turgid habit was tediously prevalent. He was a man who impressed his ability upon all who met him; so that the abler the man, and the more experienced in judging men, the higher did he rate Franklin when brought into direct contact with him; politicians and statesmen of Europe, distrustful and sagacious, trained readers and valuers of men, gave him the rare honor of placing confidence not only in his personal sincerity, but in his broad fair-mindedness, a mental quite as much as a moral trait.

It is hard indeed to give full expression to a man of such scope in morals, in mind, and in affairs. He illustrates humanity in an astonishing multiplicity of ways at an infinite number of points. He, more than any other, seems to show us how many-sided our human nature is. No individual, of course, fills the entire circle; but if we can imagine a circumference which shall express humanity, we can place within it no one man who will reach out to approach it and to touch it at so many points as will Franklin. A man of active as well as universal goodwill, of perfect trustfulness towards all dwellers on the earth, of supreme wisdom expanding over all the interests of the race, none has earned a more kindly loyalty. By the instruction which he gave, by his discoveries, by his inventions, and by his achievements in public life, he earns

the distinction of having rendered to men varied and useful services excelled by no other one man; and thus he has established a claim upon the gratitude of mankind so broad that history holds few who can be his rivals.—
JOHN T. MORSE, JR.

READERS' AND STUDENTS' NOTES

1. Franklin was such a many-sided man that the literature devoted to his work and memory is very copious. To understand Franklin properly, however, the first thing one should do is to read his "*Autobiography*." Of this famous work many editions are published—not a few of them quite low priced. Some of these editions, however, are "garbled and incomplete." John Bach McMaster says, "Whoever would read the '*Autobiography*' as it was written must go to the 'Bigelow edition.'" (Hon. John Bigelow, U. S. minister to France in 1867 obtained the original of the "*Autobiography*" in France in that year.) This "Bigelow edition" of the "*Autobiography*" is published in 3 vols. by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, at \$4.50.
2. A standard "*Life of Franklin*" and the one perhaps that is best known, is that by Parton (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 2 vols., \$5.00).
3. A very sympathetic "*Life of Franklin*," a "Life" in which due emphasis is laid upon Franklin's work as one of the founders of the republic, is that by John T. Morse, Jr. in the "*American Statesmen*" series (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., \$1.25).
4. Another account of Franklin, not quite so sympathetic as the foregoing, but nevertheless scholarly and discriminating, is that by John Bach McMaster in the "*American Men of Letters*" series (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., \$1.25). In this book, of course, the literary side of Franklin's work is specially noted.
5. A recent biography of Franklin, and an excellent all-round account of the great man's life and work, is that by Edward Robins entitled "*Benjamin Franklin, Printer, Statesman, Phi-*

osopher, and Practical Citizen," in the "American Men of Energy" series (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, \$1.50).

6. Another recent biography of Franklin is that entitled "The True Benjamin Franklin," by Sydney George Fisher (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., \$2.00). This work is highly eulogized by some critics, and quite as strongly dispraised by others. No one, however, questions the author's honesty of purpose, or his painstakingness.

7. An account of Benjamin Franklin for boys, "a boy's book on a boy's own subject," is Henry Mayhew's "Young Benjamin Franklin, or The Right Road Through Life" (New York: Harper & Brothers, \$1.25).

8. Popular accounts of Franklin—not whole books—are found numerously. In Philip G. Hubert's "Inventors" in the "Men of Achievement" series, the opening chapter is devoted to Franklin, the other chapters being devoted to other great American inventors from Fulton and Whitney to Edison and Bell (New York: Scribners, \$1.50).

9. In Dr. William Garnett's "Heroes of Science—Physicists" (New York: E. & J. B. Young & Co.), Franklin has a place along with such other great physicists as Boyle, Cavendish, Rumford, Young, Faraday, and Clerk Maxwell—truly a noble company.

Sir William Herschel

the Jerseys and the misery at Valley Forge, he replied, "Ça ira, Ça ira" ("it will all come right in the end"). Frenchmen took up the words, remembered them, and in a time yet more terrible made them a revolutionary cry.

To the people he was the personification of the rights of man. It was seldom that he entered Paris. But when he did so, his dress, his wigless head, his spectacles, his walking-stick, and his great fur cap, marked him out as the American. If he went on foot, a crowd was sure to follow at his heels. If he entered the theater, a court of justice, a public resort of any kind, the people were sure to burst forth into shouts of applause. Their hats, coats, canes, snuff-boxes, were all *à la Franklin*. To sit at table with him was an honor greatly sought. Poets wrote him wretched sonnets. Noble dames addressed him in detestable verse. Women crowned his head with flowers. Grave Academicians shouted with ecstasy to see him give Voltaire a kiss. No house was quite in fashion that did not have a Franklin portrait over the chimney-piece, a Franklin stove in one of the chambers, and in the garden, a liberty tree planted by his hand. The "Gazette" of Amiens undertook to prove that his ancestors had been French.—JOHN BACH McMASTER.

FRANKLIN, THE YOUNG REPUBLIC'S GREAT FINANCIER

The plan which seemed most effective was to send a representative accredited to some foreign government, and instructed to raise the money at once. Without writing to see whether he arrived safely, or was received, or was successful in his negotiations, the next ship which

followed him brought drafts and bills which he was expected to accept, and at maturity to pay. Having thus skillfully shifted the laboring oar into his hands Congress bestirred itself no further. Poor Jay, in Spain, had a terrible time of it in this way. And if ever a man was placed by his country in a painful and humiliating position, it was he. He faced it gallantly, but had to be carried through by Franklin. From first to last it was upon Franklin that the brunt fell. He had to keep the country from financial failure as Washington had to save it from military failure. He was the real financier of the Revolution. Without him Robert Morris would have been helpless. Spain yielded but trifling sums in response to Jay's solicitations. Holland, which was tried by Adams, was even more tardy and unwilling, though towards the end, some money was got there. Franklin alone, at Paris, could tap the rock and make the waters flow. So upon him Congress sent in an endless procession of drafts, and compelled him to pay all their foreign bills and indebtedness. He gathered and he disbursed. To him were referred all the drafts upon Jay and others, which they themselves could not pay, and he discharged them one and all. A heavier task never fell upon any man, nor one bringing less recognition; for money matters usually seem so dry and unintelligible that every one shirks informing himself about them. We read about the horrors of the winter camp at Valley Forge, and we shudder at all the details of the vivid picture. The anxiety, the toil, the humiliation, which Franklin endured for many winters and many summers in Paris, in sustaining the national credit, do not make a picture, do not furnish material for a readable chapter in history. Yet many a man would

far rather have faced Washington's lot than Franklin's.—
JOHN T. MORSE, JR.

FRANKLIN'S MANY-SIDED GREATNESS

To say that Franklin's life is the most interesting, the most uniformly successful, yet lived by any American, is bold. But it is nevertheless strictly true. Not the least of the many glories of our country is the long list of men who, friendless, half-educated, poor, have by the sheer force of their own abilities, raised themselves from the humblest beginnings to places of eminence and command. Many of these have surpassed him. Some have speculated more deeply on finance, have been more successful as philanthropists, have made greater discoveries in physics, have written books more commonly read than his. Yet not one of them has attained to greatness in so many ways, or has made so lasting an impression on his countrymen. His face is as well known as the face of Washington, and, save that of Washington, is the only one of his time that is now instantly recognized by the great mass of his countrymen. His maxims are in every man's mouth. His name is, all over the country, bestowed on counties and towns, on streets, on societies, on corporations. The stove, the lightning-rod, and the kite, the papers on the gulf stream, and on electricity, give him no mean claims to be considered a man of science. In diplomacy his name is bound up with many of the most famous documents in our history. He drew the Albany Plan of Union. He sent over the Hutchinson Letters. He is the only man who wrote his name alike at the foot of the Declaration of Independence, at the foot of the Treaty

of Alliance, at the foot of the Treaty of Peace, and at the foot of the Constitution under which we live. Nor is he less entitled to distinction in the domain of letters, for he has produced two works which of their kind have not yet been surpassed. One is "*Father Abraham's Speech to the People at the Auction.*" The other is "*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin.*"—JOHN BACH McMASTER.

FRANKLIN, ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST MEN

Intellectually there are few men who are Franklin's peers in all the ages and nations. He covered, and covered well, vast ground. The reputation of doing and knowing various unrelated things is wont to bring suspicion of perfunctoriness; but the ideal of the human intellect is an understanding to which all knowledge and all activity are germane. There have been a few, very few minds which have approximated toward this ideal, and among them Franklin's is prominent. He was one of the most distinguished scientists who have ever lived. Bancroft calls him "the greatest diplomatist of his century." His ingenious and useful devices and inventions were very numerous. He possessed a masterly shrewdness in business and practical affairs. He was a profound thinker and preacher in morals and on the conduct of life; so that, with the exception of founders of great religions, it would be difficult to name any persons who have more extensively influenced the ideas, motives, and habits of life, of men. He was one of the most, perhaps the most agreeable conversationist of his age. He was a rare wit and humorist, and in an age when "American