

## Jean de Marsillac

Vol. xv. 49, 88 ; xvi. 18, 81.

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**S**OME further light has been thrown upon portions of the life of de Marsillac by references in the *Memoirs of Nicholas Naftel*, 1888.

The account of de Marsillac's arrival in London in 1785 and meeting with Nicholas Naftel is outlined in the first portion of my article on his Life and Letters (vol. xv. 51). The latter writes of this meeting :

I attended Peter's Court meeting, and it so happened that in coming out of the same, I saw a crowd of Friends gathered upon the pavement, and I inclined towards them, and soon found that a stranger was amongst them, to whom I spoke, and he asked me if I could inform him where he could safely dispose of the letters he had in trust for the Elders of the Society of Friends. But he first asked me if I was a Quaker ; I answered : " I was so called," it being a year or two previous to our being received into membership. I soon thought of John Eliot . . .

This stranger proved to be John De Marsilliac le Cointe, a man of rank in France, but had lately become attached to the Friends in the South of France, and was come as a delegate to London.

[Here follows an account of the discovery of the "inspirés" in the South of France.]

I conducted him to our Friend, John Eliot, Jr., who received us kindly and told us that said papers should be read on the sixth day following. This happened on a first day, so I took John De Marcilliac to an eating house in East Cheapside, where we dined, after which we attended Devonshire House meeting. Joseph Savory and Adey Bellamy took notice of us two strangers, the former inviting us to take a bed at his present house, No. 48, Cheapside, which we accordingly did. So with difficulty I got him out of his lodgings in the west end of the town. His landlady appearing much displeased with me, apprehending I was the cause of his removal. His luggage, etc., pretty well loaded a hackney coach. So were we afterwards pretty much together. He hoped to stay several days after me, and was kindly noted by Friends who gave him many books and an epistle for the Friends in the South, and I find that he was favored, after meeting with considerable opposition, in particular from his wife, to deliver the same to the Society in the South to their great comfort.

Further reference agrees largely with the information already printed and would seem to confirm the suggestion made (xvi. 86) that the carriage accident was accountable

for Marsillac's sudden change of mind and manner. Some fresh light is also thrown upon his later days in France.

As to John De Marcillac le Cointe, he went to America and was pretty well thought of and respected. But going with a Friend in a chaise, on turning a corner of a street in Philadelphia, the chaise was overturned and said Friend killed on the spot, which made such an impression on his mind that he soon returned to France, and since that time I have heard but little of him only that he was known to enter the French army in Spain, on the medical staff.

However, I very much want to know what his latter end will be, and was I to land in France [from his home in Guernsey] I have thought I should at least make some enquiry for him at his former residence, near Dieppe, at a place called Chateau Des Vignes. [*Nicholas Naftel*, pp. 21-25, with some correction of spelling].<sup>1</sup>

NORMAN PENNEY.

<sup>1</sup> I cannot restrain the expression of the feeling how much our late friend, A. C. Thomas, would have welcomed any extension of our knowledge of a person in whose life he was much interested.

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### Books Wanted

(For previous lists, see *xiv.* 88, 121; *xv.* 119; *xvi.* 17; *xvii.* 120.)

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE REFERENCE LIBRARY:

James and Lucretia Mott's *Three Months in Great Britain*, Phila. 1841.

*The Life, Travels and Opinions of Benjamin Lundy*, compiled by Earle, Phila. 1847.

*Annals of Newberry* (South Carolina), by O'Neil.

*Memoirs of David Hoover*, edited by Julian, Richmond, Ind. 1857.

*Memoirs of Nicholas Naftel*, by his grandson, Joseph Nicholas Naftel, published in U.S.A. in 1888.

*Pennsylvania Spelling Book*, by Anthony Benezet, Dublin, 1800.

*Brief Considerations on Slavery*, by Anthony Benezet, Burlington, N.J., 1773.

*Treatise of Arithmetic*, by John Gough, Phila. 1788.

*Christian Instruction*, by John Wigham, Phila. no date.

*Memoranda relating to the Mifflin Family*, by J. H. Merrill, 1890.

*Compendium of History*, by Hannah Allen, London, 1862.

**Please send offers to the Librarian, Devonshire House,  
Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.**