

# FRENCH DELEGATES HERE

## Comte de Rochambeau and Party See the East Side at Night.

### Disappointed Because There Was No Rioting—The Count's Impressions of New York.

The Comte de Rochambeau and several members of the Rochambeau mission, who are to take part in the ceremonies connected with the unveiling of the Rochambeau statue next week in Washington, arrived here yesterday on the French liner La Touraine.

The other members of the party are M. Robert de Bily and M. Guillemin, representing M. Delcassé, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs; M. Lagrave, the French Commissioner General to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis and representing the Department of Commerce; M. Alfred Croiset, Dean of the Faculty of Letters in the University of Paris and Member of the Institute, representing the Department of Education; the Vicomte de Chambrun, a great-grandson of the Marquis de Lafayette; Ferdinand Hamar, the sculptor of the statue, and M. Hamar's father. The ladies in the party are the Comtesse de Rochambeau and Comtesse de Chambrun, a sister-in-law of the Vicomte and formerly Miss Longworth, a granddaughter of Nicholas Longworth of Cincinnati. M. Warnier, private secretary to Gen. Brugère, at present bound hither on the battleship Gaulois, was also on La Touraine.

The revenue cutter which left the Battery at 6:30 yesterday morning had on board James B. Reynolds, Mayor Low's private secretary, who welcomed the guests for the city: M. Jules Pœufvé of the French Embassy at Washington, and Prof. Adolph Cohn of Columbia, who went down to meet M. Croiset. The Comte de Rochambeau greeted the welcoming party on the main deck, and as he does not speak English, Mr. Reynolds turned his little speech into French, which was not so difficult, as he formerly spent some years in Paris. After the exchange of courtesies the party went aft to the promenade deck and lined up before the photographers. The Comtesse de Chambrun arranged the groups, but could not be persuaded to be photographed herself.

The Comte de Rochambeau said this was his first visit to this country, and he looked forward with much pleasure to his stay, as he had vivid recollections of the descriptions of America by his father, the Comte de Rochambeau, who was here in 1776 at the Centennial at Philadelphia, and again in 1881 at the Yorktown Celebration.

M. Croiset, whose writings on Greek language and literature are textbooks the world over, will make several visits to Columbia. He said that he had an important message to deliver to President Butler, but he would not disclose its nature.

The Vicomte de Chambrun, who made himself very popular on the voyage over, looks as if he might have been one of a batch of graduates from Yale or Harvard. He has spent some years in Washington and speaks English without accent.

The Comtesse de Rochambeau, who, like the Comte, is making her first visit here, was interested in the Statue of Liberty and much impressed by the sight of the tall buildings.

The party bear with them as presents from President Loubet to Mrs. Roosevelt the exquisite table centerpiece of Sèvres porcelain which took the prize at the Exposition of 1900, and to Miss Roosevelt a Sèvres tea service.

All were driven to the Waldorf-Astoria, where they are to remain until their departure for Washington on Tuesday. They lost no time in making the acquaintance of the city, and last night, as the guests of Secretary Reynolds, made a slumming tour on the east side.

Three carriages took the party to the scene of the "kosher" butcher riotings, the Italian quarter, Chinatown, and other places. They expressed themselves as disappointed at not witnessing any riots, having been informed that the disturbances were likely to be renewed last night.

The Mills Hotels, on Bleecker Street and on Rivington Street, were first visited. The University Settlement, of which Secretary Reynolds used to be head worker, was also seen. Then dinner was partaken of at the Café Boulevard, Tenth Street and Second Avenue, after which Engine Company, No. 18, at Attorney and Delancey Streets, was visited. A drill was gone through, and the firemen's sleeping quarters were inspected.

Next the streets in the vicinity of Grand Street, the scene of the recent riotings, were traversed. There was an immense crowd out, but the people were quiet, so a move was made to the Eldridge Street Police Station House, where the visitors were received by Inspector Cross. The reserves held for prospective riots were ordered out for review, and then a dozen lost children, who had not yet been claimed, were lined up for the inspection of the French curiosity seekers.

The carriages were entered again and driven to Mulberry Street, where Italians and their homes were looked at with great interest. Through Mulberry Bend and past the park and then through Chinatown went the carriages with the party. No one got out in Chinatown, and the carriages were then driven over the bridge to Fulton Street, Brooklyn, out a little way, and back again, the visit being chiefly made for the ride over the bridge.

The Count was delighted with the trip, and on his return to the Waldorf said:

"I have been very much interested in all that I have seen, and I will not soon forget my first view of the city. The east side is a most interesting place and one where the study of humanity can be advantageously carried on. I can only compare the east side with certain parts of Paris on the night of the 14th of July or some other fête day.

"It seems that in New York there is a continual fête. Everybody seems to have money and to be spending it. Everybody seems prosperous and happy. What struck me rather forcibly was that the people of New York are clean and that the men look very much like Englishmen, only they appear better dressed and are better looking."

"What do you think of our women?" was asked.

"As for the women, I cannot answer for I have not seen enough of them to judge," the Count replied. "If they are all up to the standard of those whom I have seen to-night, they will indeed do."

"Did you see any wickedness?"

"I saw nothing wicked. This city is not a wicked one, and, indeed, neither is Paris. It is not Paris that is wicked, though the city has sometimes been spoken of as wicked. It is those who come to Paris that are wicked."

To-morrow night the visitors will be the guests at an informal dinner given at the Union League Club by ex-Secretary Cornelius N. Bliss. The mission will return to New York on May 27, and for the following few days will be guests at various entertainments given in their honor.

## AMBASSADOR PORTER'S VISIT.

### Returns from France for a Vacation and Talks on Various Subjects, Including His Work Abroad.

After an absence of five years, Gen. Horace Porter, United States Ambassador to France, returned to America on the American liner St. Louis yesterday for a three months' vacation. He was met down the bay by his son, Clarence Porter, at whose home, 213 West Seventieth Street, he will stop while in New York, and his son-in-law, E. W. Bird. When asked the reason for his trip the Ambassador replied:

"There are three of them. First, I have been looking forward to this home-coming like a schoolboy; second, I wanted to attend the Rochambeau ceremonies in Washington next Saturday, and, thirdly, I have been honored by being chosen the orator at the West Point centennial on the 11th of next month, and being a West Pointer, naturally I did not relish the idea of missing that."

Speaking of the Rochambeau statue fêtes he continued:

"Not only the French Government but the press and the people are looking forward to the movements of the mission in America with the keenest interest, and it is talked about fully as much as the missions to Spain and England to participate in the coronations of Kings Edward and Alfonso. President Loubet, in his eloquent remarks addressed to the members of the mission upon their taking leave of him, expressed the sentiments of all France when he said, referring to the two other missions: 'Your mission yields nothing to these in importance and in the interest with which we shall follow it. You are going to a country where energy is a religion and where youth is loved. I wish you that good welcome which that enthusiastic and mighty people beyond the ocean has always

reserved for those who have gone to them as representatives of France.'

Of the diplomatic affairs that have occupied his attention during his long absence, Gen. Porter, in reply to a question, said:

"Well, the first year there occurred the important negotiations which preceded the war with Spain, which kept several of us representatives in Europe very busy. The next year the commission which concluded the treaty of peace sat for several months in Paris. The year after that the Venezuelan Arbitration Tribunal held its sessions in Paris, and vast preparations also were on foot for the Paris Exposition. Then came the busy Summer of the Exposition, and last year we were all kept busy with the many communications exchanged between our Government and the European powers interested regarding the complicated condition of affairs in China. Our Government at Washington has had the satisfaction of seeing an ample vindication of the views to which it adhered in these matters and of witnessing a decided triumph of the principles for which it contended. At no time has American statesmanship been so highly respected abroad."

Concerning the relations between France and America, he said that they had never been on a better or friendlier footing.

"The trade between the two countries," he said, "is increasing rapidly. This is due partly to the fact that the business of the two nations is of such a nature as not to conflict with each other; that is, France sells us her art and luxuries, while we sell to France our steel and other manufactures. As we are their richest customer, naturally this condition is very gratifying to the French people."

Gen. Porter heard of the eruption of Mont Pelée the night before he sailed, but did not get the details of the catastrophe until his arrival here yesterday. He said the action of Congress, the American people, and the Chamber of Commerce was superb, and that it would certainly be appreciated accordingly by the French.

The Ambassador described his recent visit to the Château Rochambeau, the home of the soldier whose statue is to be unveiled at Washington. Gen. Porter occupied the Count's room, examined the sword he wore at Yorktown, and was accorded other unusual privileges by the family.