

their representatives some ground for complaint because of the discourteous treatment to which they are sometimes subjected in the columns of newspapers and magazines of other countries. How to prevent offense to foreign states without interfering with the freedom of the press in democratic states is a difficult problem and one which will not soon be solved. Even though it be a half loaf, the anti-picketing resolution will prove of practical value in preventing a particularly offensive form of discourtesy to foreign representatives at the capital.

ELLERY C. STOWELL

THE INFLUENCE OF DUMAS

It is an interesting fact for Americans that in the period of the Revolution and for some time thereafter, the influence of a foreign scholar was significant in sane American international development. Franklin while in Europe in the early days of the Revolution had become acquainted with Charles William Frederick Dumas, a Swiss, who had lived many years in The Netherlands and was received in the diplomatic circles at The Hague. Dumas had a warm sympathy for the aspirations of the American colonies and was active in enlisting the sympathies of others when the American colonies were of relatively little concern abroad. Franklin, as chairman of the Committee of Secret Correspondence, turned to Dumas as a suitable confidential agent in Europe, and seems to have sent to him the first letter from the Committee and to have kept up a continued confidential relation.

As a Swiss, Dumas was naturally an admirer of the comprehensive work of Vattel on international law and seems to have thought it would be a sound guide for the early American leaders. He accordingly sent three copies of an edition, which he had issued, to Franklin. Of these books Franklin wrote to Dumas on December 19, 1775,

I am much obliged by the kind present you have made us of your [1775] edition of Vattel. It came to us in good season, when the circumstances of a rising state make it necessary frequently to consult the law of nations. Accordingly, that copy which I kept (after depositing one in our own public library here, and sending the other to the College of Massachusetts Bay, as you directed) has been continually in the hands of the members of our Congress now sitting, who are much pleased with your notes and preface, and have entertained a high and just esteem for their author.

A recent investigation has disclosed that the copies deposited in "our own public library here," now the Library Company of Philadelphia, and "the College of Massachusetts Bay," now Harvard College, more than one hundred and sixty years later are still preserved in those libraries. The third copy, said to have been "pounced upon by studious members of Congress," has not been located, even after considerable search, and it would be a satisfaction to know whether it is still in existence and, if so, where.

Dumas helpfully initiated and carried forward many negotiations with

European states, both before and after the Revolution. He recognized the importance of official residences for diplomatic representatives and acted as agent in the purchase of such a residence for Mr. Adams, the Hotel d'Amérique, in The Hague in 1782. At this period only France and Spain were thus provided. As has been recognized in practice of later years, he even then reports "This purchase, besides the economy of it, has produced, politically, very good effects."

Dumas wisely recognized that a new state should come into being with a sound knowledge of and respect for international law, which he hoped the work of Vattel would supply. In his confidential service with the Committee of Secret Correspondence and later as Chargé, Dumas showed wide knowledge of current conditions and deep devotion to the principles of political liberty. The wisdom of his advocacy of state ownership of diplomatic residences is now recognized. His acquaintance with men and affairs often during the years 1774 to 1794 contributed much to the success of American negotiations in Europe.

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