

AMERICA AND THE AMERICANS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649247844

America and the Americans by Achille Murat

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ACHILLE MURAT

**AMERICA AND
THE AMERICANS**

TO HIS MAJESTY,
LEOPOLD, KING OF THE BELGIANS, K. G. G. C. B.,
&c., &c., &c.

THIS VOLUME

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS MAJESTY'S GRATEFULLY OBLIGED

AND DEVOTED SERVANT,

HENRY J. BRADFIELD,

EDITOR AND TRANSLATOR.

TRANSLATOR'S DEDICATION.

SIRE,—

WHEN in England, on my return from Greece, I was honored with the permission of dedicating a volume of poems entitled "Tales of the Cyclades" to your Majesty, and enjoyed the further patronage of holding a commission under Prince Murat, in the Belgian army.

Knowing the noble and generous sentiments with which your Majesty was actuated towards the Colonel, and his devotion to you, Sire, and the cause in which he had then embarked his fortunes; in respectful consideration of them, and in recollection of past kindnesses which I experienced during my services in Belgium, I have availed myself of this public opportunity of expressing my grateful acknowledgments in the dedication of the accompanying translation of some valuable personal observations which Colonel Murat presented to me, when in garrison at Ath,—on the subject of America and the Americans.

Though some years have elapsed since they were written, as they possess a discriminative delineation of character and truthfulness in their composition, as also many interesting remarks arising from an experience of a residence of many years in this country of his adoption, as an American citizen: I have deemed them of sufficient interest, respectfully to submit them to the discriminating mind of your Majesty; possessing as they do a new feature in the additional notes and information afforded me, thereby rendering the work, as I humbly hope, more applicable to the present day, by which you will perceive, Sire, with

TRANSLATOR'S DEDICATION.

what rapid strides this republic is advancing in civilization and prosperity.

The late brilliant conquests of New Mexico and California, place her in the new position of an Empire; while the gold mines and *placers* of that magnificent region have, moreover, unveiled those long hidden treasures, realizing the fabled "El Dorado" of that great navigator, and chivalrous knight, Sir Walter Raleigh.

Your Majesty enjoys the reputation of possessing liberal and enlightened views and opinions; while the tranquil prosperity of Belgium, and the happiness of a loyal, devoted and industrious people, not only bear witness of a wise and good legislation, but evince, also, your Majesty's paternal solicitude in their welfare, presenting a moral to the monarchy of Continental Europe, —that peace, happiness and prosperity can be secured and maintained without the aid of tyranny, or the sacrifice of the blood of the people.

Imbued with sentiments of a hatred of despotism, and a love of liberty in its exalted and enlightened sense, I now respectfully present this little memento of my late amiable and lamented friend to your Majesty, hoping it may afford an agreeable hour's entertainment, and be deemed a faithful delineation of the character, manners and habits of America and the Americans in the nineteenth century.

I have the honor to be, Sire,

Your Majesty's

Most devoted, humble servant,

HENRY J. BRADFIELD.

E165
M83.

A WORD FROM THE TRANSLATOR.

DURING my services as an officer in a regiment of Lancers in the Belgian army, of which Prince Achille Murat was Colonel, he presented me with a copy of some valuable Notes, which he had written for the amusement and information of his esteemed and talented friend, the Count Thibeaudau.

The Prince left our regiment and the army, much to the regret of King Leopold, in consequence of the absurd jealousy of the Northern Powers, he being a member of "the Bonaparte family"! What a change has now come "o'er the spirit of their dream"! With the consent of these very powers (more from compulsion than free will) the nephew of the Emperor is President of the Republic of France! while other branches of the 'proscribed' family are holding high official appointments. Thus much for the march of Liberty! and well hath Byron said:

"Freedom's blood 's the growth of Freedom's tree."

The Colonel was not only much esteemed and beloved by his corps, but from his amiable, chivalrous and frank manners, became the intimate personal friend of the King; and his society was moreover much valued in the agreeable and enlightened circles of Brussels.

I arrived in the United States with the hope of renewing my acquaintance with him, when to my heartfelt regret I learnt that he was no more.

I now present the Notes to the public: they bear the impress of a reflective and inquiring mind, and have afforded no small gratification and useful information to many of my literary acquaintance in Europe.

The author, it would appear, had for his object throughout, not only the welfare of his adopted country, but moreover a desire to represent America and the Americans in a faithful and interesting light to Europeans, uninfluenced by party feelings or political bias. Hence, actuated by a sense of respect for my lamented friend, and a hope that the accompanying translation of the Notes may be acceptable to the American, as well as (more especially) to the educated and reflecting part of the European public, who in reality know so little of the United States, the internal economy of her institutions, or her progressive commercial wealth, and who perceive but "through a glass darkly" her rapid strides to the accomplishment of a future destiny, that of forming the mighty empire of the Western World, I offer it to the public.

Some years have elapsed since the Notes were written. I claim therefore the kind indulgence of the public for any apparent discrepancies, or obsolete data, which may here and there occur; with this agreeable reflection, however, and to an American especially so, that a comparison with the present period will shew that intellect, civilization and enterprise are adorning with increased luster the already exalted position of the Republic of America among the nations of the world.

MAY 1st, 1849.

DEDICATION.

TO COUNT THIBEAUDAU.

MY DEAR FRIEND :

ACTING agreeably to your suggestion and request, I wrote four letters on the United States; which I addressed to you. As an act of justice therefore, I dedicate this work to you, as being the originator thereof; and trust you will receive it with the same indulgence as the previous letters. I have had but one object in view, that of making known to Europe, especially France, the institutions of the United States, and the manners of the people.

This task becomes every day the more important, inasmuch as a form of Government similar to our own is the point which the people of Europe are aiming to accomplish, not only during our days, but since the revival of letters, and that period when the Greek and Roman began to penetrate and dissipate the darker ages of barbarism.

The people of Continental Europe have lost themselves in seeking after liberty in a metaphysical sense, and have abandoned practical liberty, which I alone appreciate. This is only to be found in the United States of America.

This principle from which so much good emanates, and which is destined to govern the world, is what is called in America *Self-government*. Provided it is the people who govern, we are satisfied. It matters little what be the form of the machine, or