
Bernard Fay and "The Two Franklins" Radio Broadcast, October 20, 1933, by Franklin Bache.

The opportunity to speak of Bernard Fay, which is afforded to me by Miss Joan Greeves of The Philadelphia Publishers' Association is welcome.

For many years I had a large trunk of Franklin and Bache papers. I knew that they must be interesting. But as I was much more interested in my descendants than in my remote ancestors, however distinguished, the trunk and its contents received little attention.

But some years ago I decided to go into it and then showed its contents to the erudite George Simpson Eddy, the outstanding American authority on Benjamin Franklin. Mr. Eddy told me that a young Frenchman, named Fay, was writing a book to be called "Benjamin Franklin, The Apostle of Modern Times", and that he would probably like to see my collection. Wishing to know something of Fay's work I read his scholarly volume entitled "The Revolutionary Spirit in France and America in the Eighteenth Century", and at once decided to put anything I had at his service for his Benjamin Franklin book; which, when its American translation was published in 1929, was selected by the Book of the Month Club.

In going over my papers, Mr. Fay found much to supplement his already considerable knowledge of the short, but very active, and interesting life of Franklin's grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache. At the age of seven he had been taken by Dr. Franklin to France, in 1776. He remained there and in Switzerland at school for the nine years during which the old Doctor represented us at the Court of his Most Christian Majesty, Louis XVI. In 1785, at the age of sixteen, young Bache returned to America with his grandfather, and finished his education at the University of Pennsylvania. About the time of Franklin's death, in 1790, Bache, who had inherited the Doctor's printing office, but no money, started his famous newspaper as its editor and proprietor.

Thus far there is much in parallel between the careers of Fay and young Bache. Both were precocious, both received their early training in France. Both received college degrees later in America, Bache at Pennsylvania, Fay at Harvard. Both made early reputations. Both were writers. Both were fluent in both languages.

Fay told me that he wished to write a book about Bache.

I could say much about him, but Fay says it much better in his current book "The Two Franklins". He was an interesting character. A fearless fighter, without awe of the highly placed. A sincere lover of his country. And of its people. He did not concur in the dictum of Hamilton, Washington's Treasury Secretary, "The people; it is a brute". On the contrary, and like his grandfather, he believed the people could govern themselves. He hated autocracy so much that his will made on his death-bed enjoined his wife that their four sons should be brought
up in the "principles of Civil Liberty". Between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-nine, when he died, he founded, owned and edited the then greatest paper in America, The Aurora. In publishing the secret Jay Treaty with England he made the greatest of newspaper "scoops". He tore at, and tore down, the Federal party. Washington, Hamilton, Jay, Adams, to his mind did not stand for what was then called "Civil Liberty". Jefferson feared the great name of Washington. Bache fought in the open. Jefferson, an able man, but an ambitious politician, had the caution of his kind. Bache enraged his opponents. One day they had him arrested on the comprehensive and reverberating charge of libelling the President, the Congress and the Secretary of State. He was immediately released on two thousand dollars bail. The very next day the Federalists, feeling that a libel charge would not silence Bache, introduced the famous Sedition Act permitting officials to jail their alleged detractors. It was later passed and made effective. Several editors did go to jail. It was proof to the people of the correctness of Bache's condemnation of the Federal tendencies. In two years Adams was defeated for re-election; Jefferson was elected; Bache was dead. The Federal party disappeared, never to return. We became a democracy and have so remained.

Mr. Fay was interested in, and liked Benny Bache. I was glad to have him make any use he chose of my collection. Bache's career as an editor was of course public property, but his intimate letters threw a bright light on his character which confirmed Faÿ's view of him. The book would have been written without my data. But Mr. Faÿ tells me it was helpful.

The more I saw of Bernard Faÿ the more I liked and admired him. The more I learned of his career, the greater my admiration. Born and educated in France he was twenty-one when the World War commenced. Slightly lame from youth, he nevertheless won the Croix de Guerre at Verdun. When twenty-seven he earned his Master of Arts degree at Harvard. At thirty he received an LL.D. from the Sorbonne. He was a professor in the Faculty of Letters at the University of Clermont Ferrand. When the chair of American Civilization was created, at the College de France, he was elected by that body to fill it, being the youngest professor chosen, in the four hundred years of its existence.

He is a hard and thorough worker. Once he was spending a couple of days with me. I had never seen a historian at his desk. I was impressed. He had a bound file of the Aurora, Bache's newspaper. The file was clumsy, very heavy, and too large to admit reading it while seated. So he propped it up on the desk, and from ten in the morning until ten at night, with two half hours off for meals, he stood, bending over the desk, turning leaf after leaf, reading each, even the advertisements and making endless notes. The next day, being Sunday, I thought he would rest. Not at all. He went to his church before breakfast, ate breakfast, then being both spiritually and dietetically refreshed he read through a long diary of Benjamin Franklin Bache in the original French manuscript, badly faded; then, an English translation (making his usual copious notes). And to finish the day's work copied the original in long hand lest it fade out entirely and gave it to me.

His hunt for and researches in the archives of the various societies of English, Scotch, Irish, German and French immigrants was a revelation of conscientious and exhaustive research for source material.

A learned and witty companion, a sincere and Christian gentleman. And a Frenchman who loves America.

This volume is a valuable contribution to the history of education in Pennsylvania. The author was not content to produce a book by the familiar process of making a composite of books previously published and adding a modicum of new material. In his search for data he traveled the length and breadth of the state, poring over manuscripts and periodicals in libraries, interviewing school officials, delving into dusty closets in hundreds of school districts to bring to light the records stored there, with the result that much that is found in the book has never heretofore appeared in print. Most books on this subject expect the reader to take on faith the thoroughness of the author's research, the accuracy of his interpretation, and the validity of his conclusions. This volume, on the contrary, has literally thousands of references throughout the text to the sources on which the statements are based. The reader may not in every instance agree with the distribution of emphasis on the many topics dealt with, but that in no sense lessens the value of the work. The highest benefit a history of education can confer is, not to foster unquestioning acceptance, but to stimulate intelligent inquiry, and the latter is precisely what this volume tends to do.

Part I. deals with the Colonial period when sectarian schools, numerous one-teacher schools and a few community schools furnished practically all of the opportunities for secondary education in Pennsylvania. Part II. treats of the academy, the second stage of development, when the claims of secondary schools upon the public treasury was recognized to the extent of making state appropriations to certain institutions in return for which free instruction was required to be given to a specified number of pupils. The final section discusses the rise and growth of the public high school to the close of the nineteenth century, with a brief reference to more recent times. The book as a whole presents so comprehensive and illuminating an account of secondary education in the Keystone State from the first "School of Arts and Sciences" to the modern well organized and efficiently conducted modern high school, that no student of the subject can afford to be unfamiliar with the vast store of hitherto unpublished material to be found within this volume.

GEORGE WHEELER.
MICHEL, DE RUYTER, I. ADMIRAEL GENERAEL 

Geslacht van Melch, van de Oostm flanders. 

Die valde van 't vorrenen vaderlande; 

Die van een jaar twee grote strijdkinen. 

Ten tijde van die grote slag niet staken; 

Hie voor die zegen, die van dese Gode door sterke. 

Door hem bedeelt de regten in de wind.