

sident of the Senate, Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, and lastly, in 1804, Minister of State. In the high station to which he had now attained he preserved his reputation unsullied, while his great ability and uniform kindness won for him the respect and the affection of all. Napoleon could see but few of the many instances of the Count's disinterestedness, but he admired it. Lacepede refused to receive any salary, and his private fortune was soon exhausted by the exercise of his benevolence. Napoleon then ordered all arrears to be paid up to him as well as a regular salary; and the generosity of the Count increased with his wealth. One instance of this generosity we may quote.

A young man who was employed in one of the offices under his control, appeared depressed and ill. The count supposed there was some latent cause of anxiety, and employed his physician to discover what it was. Having learned that the young man's circumstances were hopelessly embarrassed, he immediately sent him 10,000 francs. The gentleman hastened to him with tears in his eyes, entreating him to fix the terms of re-imbursement;—"My friend," he replied, "I never receive any thing of that sort."

The next passage displays some of the peculiarities of a philosopher—the union of great talents and the most tender social qualities.

"What rendered his disinterestedness in every degree conformable with his munificence, was the fact that he had very few personal wants. He had no expenses but what were rendered necessary by the situation which he held. He never possessed more than one suit at a time.

After dressing in the morning he never changed throughout the day. His diet was as simple as his clothing. From the age of seventeen he never drank wine, and a simple and very slight repast was all he required.

But what was most surprising, was the small quantity of sleep he took; he usually slept two or three hours, and the rest of the night was employed in composition

—HIS MEMORY RETAINING ALL THE PHRASES AND THE VERY WORDS; they were as

if written in his brain, and early in the morning he dictated them to his Secretary. He has stated, that in this way he could retain whole volumes; could change them as he saw fit in his mind, and remember what he had thus corrected as accurately as the original text. It was thus that nearly the whole day was free from business, for his public duties and especially for the sweets of the family circle; for his external life, so to speak, however brilliant, was to him nothing in comparison with the domestic enjoyments, in which he ever found delightful solace for all his fatigues and trials. His attachment to his wife was beyond all praise; of which a satisfactory proof may be found in the impassioned language of the introduction to the *Cetacea*. "After I had commenced this work, misfortune felled me to the ground, and lacerated my heart; I lost my beloved companion. Grief without hope,—gratitude,—veneration,—have inscribed the name of my CAROLINE on the dedication of my work on fishes; and again in this work; and they will consecrate all those I may undertake, till the end of my fearful banishment!—Her name which is dear to every virtuous and tender heart, will recommend my feeble efforts to the lovers of nature!"

This is delightful! We here find, in the same paragraph, mention made of high intellectual qualities and a sweet and affectionate disposition of heart. The man possessed of appetites so simple, character so noble and untainted, and genius so rare and well-directed, could not pass a life (however chequered by circumstances) undistinguished by a severity which mocked the jarring of the world without. The Count De Lacepede died at the age of 70, on October 6th, 1826. Thousands of the poorer classes attended their benefactor's remains to the grave. After his death the rare fact was discovered, that the man who had filled offices in which immense wealth might have been accumulated, left a fortune much smaller than he had inherited.

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We must here conclude our present notice of the "Naturalist's Library." The se-