

country in the world!" This confession comes from an Englishman.

In the United States, we imitate, as yet, England in almost every thing, good or bad. Thus we can hardly believe that it is possible to have Free Institutions, Colleges, Lectures, Libraries, Museums, &c. without paying at least a fee of 25 cents each time we visit them, or an annual subscription. And thus we have intemperance, immorality, paupers, ignorance—with all their baneful consequences. What ought to be done, and what free institutions are immediately required to foster, preserve and secure, the future liberties and morals of our people, will be indicated at a future time. Public Instruction or the acquirement of knowledge, by all young and old, unlimited and without cost, must be the principal means of future national happiness.

BENJ. FRANKLIN, JR.

### 3. PHILOLOGY.

*First Letter to Mr. CHAPTALON, on the Graphic systems of America, and the Glyphs of OTOLU or PALENQUE, in Central America.*

You have become celebrated by decyphering, at last, the glyphs and characters of the ancient Egyptians, which all your learned predecessors had deemed a riddle, and pronounced impossible to read. You first announced your discovery in a letter. I am going to follow your footsteps on another continent; and a theme equally obscure; to none but yourself can I address with more propriety, letters on a subject so much alike in purpose and importance, and so similar to your own labours.

I shall not enter at present into any very elaborate discussion. I shall merely detail in a concise manner, the object and result of my inquiries, so as to assert my claim to a discovery of some importance in a philological and historical point of view; which was announced as early as 1828 in some journals, (3 letters to Mr. McCulloh on the Ame-

rican nations,) but not properly illustrated. Their full development would require a volume, like that of yours on the Egyptian antiquities, and may follow this perhaps at some future time.

It may be needful to prefix the following principles as guides to my researches, or results of my inquiries.

1. America has been the land of false systems; all those made in Europe on it are more or less vain and erroneous.

2. The Americans were equal in antiquity, civilization, and sciences to the nations of Africa and Europe; like them the children of the Asiatic nations.

3. It is false that no American nations had systems of writing, glyphs, and letters. Several had various modes of perpetuating ideas.

4. There were several such graphic systems in America to express ideas; all of which find equivalents in the east continent.

5. They may be ranged in twelve series, proceeding from the most simple to the most complex.

*1st Series.*—Pictured symbols or glyphs of the Toltecas, Aztecas, Huastecas, Skeres, Panos, &c. Similar to the first symbols of the Chinese, invented by Tien-hoang before the flood, and earliest Egyptian glyphs.

*2d Series.*—Outlines of figures or abridged symbols and glyphs, expressing words or ideas; used by almost all the nations of North and South America, even the most rude. Similar to the second kind of Egyptian symbols, and the Tortoise letters brought to China by the *Long-ma* (dragon and horse) nation of barbarous horsemen, under *Sui-gin*.

*3d Series.*—Quipos or knots on strings used by the Peruvians and several other South American nations. Similar to the third kind of Chinese glyphs introduced under *Yong-ching*, and used also by many nations of Africa.

*4th Series.*—Wampums or strings