

*Exposé of the State of Medicine in France, during the year  
1814, being the Anniversary Discourse of Baron Des Genettes,  
as President of the Faculty of Medicine, in Paris.*

[From the Medical and Physical Journal, April 1815.]

GENTLEMEN,

A YEAR has elapsed since one of our number, according to custom, opened the schools of medicine by taking a view of the progress of medical knowledge during the preceding year.

The circumstances of the world were then such as have rarely occurred in the annals of nations. All the military forces of Europe, humbled so many years by our triumphs, began to drive us back upon our own frontiers; innumerable armies subsequently passed them, and after many sanguinary battles they arrived at the gate of this capital, into which, however, they did not penetrate until peace was restored to France and to nearly the whole world.

Under such embarrassing circumstances, gentlemen, you never shut up your schools nor interrupted your functions. Uniting, almost all of you, the practice of the art to the teaching

of its theories, you, in a manner, multiplied yourselves to relieve the victims of war, who are no longer enemies.

Those who have preceded me in this chair have introduced the most interesting subjects; they have exhausted all that can be said as to the extensiveness of our plan of instruction.

I shall, therefore, confine myself to the exposition of our labours, afterwards do homage to the memory of such of our colleagues as have been recently taken from us; and lastly, fix the public attention of their fellow-pupils on such of our students as shall receive the prizes this day awarded.

Baron Boyer, our colleague, has published in the course of the year, "A Treatise on Chirurgical Diseases and Operations." The author of this important work thinks that the progress of modern surgery has been so rapid and remarkable, that it seems to have attained the highest degree of perfection of which it is susceptible. The greater part of surgical diseases are now perfectly well known, both with respect to their phenomena and the indications which they present; we may even frequently ascertain their proximate causes, determine their essential character, and, consequently, the best treatment. Instruments and apparatus are simplified from day to day, and the application of medicaments is better understood.

Therapeutics and hygiæna which sometimes of itself supplies their place, and always aids them, belong to both branches of the medical art; the improvement of the therapeutic and hygienic methods, therefore, equally ensure the success of internal and external applications; a new proof among many others of the indispensable necessity of rendering common to medicine and surgery the same institutions, and consequently the same sources of instruction.

Improvements so great, admitted by the whole world, and the chief glory of which is cheerfully conceded to the French, have rendered necessary the new publication of an entire body of chirurgical doctrine, to unite in a treatise of a size at once convenient and elementary, knowledge scattered in books which would form a library.

M. Boyer, after the example of some of the restorers and promoters of the art, divides surgical pathology into two great parts; the first is dedicated to the diseases which appear in every part of the body, and is subdivided into several chapters, in which he treats of inflammation in general; of abscess, gan-

grene, burns, wounds, tumours, ulcers, and the various diseases of the bones and articulations.

The second part, drawn up after an arrangement purely anatomical, embraces the diseases peculiar to each organ. Most of the diseases which require surgical operations, are referred to this division.

The author informs us, that it never was his intention to annex a complete treatise on operations, which would require immense labour. For these, he refers to particular works on operative surgery, more especially to that recently published by M. Roux; adding that the union of this work, with his own, will form a complete system of surgery.

On witnessing this association of a man of consummate experience with one who is still young, let those who are ignorant or pretend to be so, of the state of our present method of instruction, cease to indulge in absurd declamations! Let them no longer repeat in the face of direct evidence, that our school has never formed and never will form surgeons. We shall answer them by telling them, that Richerand, Depuytren, and Desormeaux, were seated on the benches of this school, before they sat among its professors; and that the former students of this school, such as Ribes, Tartra, Marjorlin, Baffos, Beauchene, Murat, Beclar, Baren, Brechet, and several others, promise to be the worthy successors of those who are now at the head of French surgery.

On reading M. Boyer's work, as well for my own instruction, as to give an account of it at this meeting, I could not refrain from making some reflections on the chapter, entitled "On the Gangrene Produced by Freezing." An eye witness of the disasters which attended the retreat from Moscow, I had an opportunity of observing in an almost innumerable mass of men, the effects of the most rigorous cold.

I pass over in silence that perfidious sleep which fixes the body on a frozen bed and induces inevitable death.

The doctrines of M. Boyer are entirely conformable to my own observations. To describe our sufferings would be to copy his whole chapter. Let us merely quote a few lines:—"A sudden augmentation of very intense cold," says M. Boyer, "particularly when it is accompanied with wind, frequently occasions gangrenous affections and sudden death; we saw all this but too well verified. When on the shores of the Beresina, a very violent north

wind covered our faces with flakes of snow ; the thermometer then stood at 21° below the freezing point, and it fell, a few days afterwards, to 24°, and even to 27°."

In another place M. Boyer says, " it has been thought that the cold extinguished the vital action, merely by coagulating the animal fluids ; but the phenomena which accompany freezing announce that the cold acts on the solids also, and particularly on the vessels and nerves. It acts on the former by diminishing, and even extinguishing their organic action ; on the latter, by blunting their sensibility, and thus preventing the exercise of their functions." We may go further, and indicate a mode of action of cold little known, a very intense effect on the brain and nerves, even when congelation has not attacked any part of the body at a distance from the centre of circulation ; we have seen men marching with every appearance of muscular energy, and the most decided and soldier-like pace, and heard them suddenly complain that a thick veil was covering their eyes ; these organs, at first for an instant haggard, soon became immoveable ; all the muscular apparatus of the neck, and more particularly the *sternocleido-mastoidei* muscles, became rigid, and gradually fixed the head on the right or left shoulder. The rigidity next extended to the trunk ; the lower extremities then tottered, and the unhappy victim fell upon the ground, exhibiting, to complete the frightful picture, all the symptoms of catalepsy or epilepsy.

But to return to M. Boyer and his work ; he has not entered into any details respecting the history of the art ; he has not even indulged in a quotation, for this would not accord with his plan ; he is anxious (I copy his own expression) to show what is proper to be done and not what has been done, upon this or that occasion.

A professor, who, like M. Boyer, has been long in the practice of lecturing, must occasionally find his own ideas in circulation ; he has in fact recognized some, and has informed the public of them, that he might not pass for the plagiarist of those who have actually copied from him.

In a word, the work of which we have just given a slight sketch, is worthy of M. Boyer's high reputation.

Professor Richerand has also published, in the course of the year, the sixth edition of his Physiology. Although not essentially different from the former editions, and although the same arrangement is preserved, yet several points of doctrine have undergone modifications, corrections, and important additions ;

some articles, which were formerly too concise, have received the desired extension ; taking advantage, in short, of the labours which daily enrich physiology, M. Richerand has learned how to found them and to appropriate them to himself, so as to justify the title of new elements, which his celebrated work bears ; the preceding editions of which, have been already translated into several languages.

M. Alphonsus Leroy, another of our colleagues, has published a little treatise, "On the Contagion which lately Raged among the Cows, Oxen, and even the Human Race, in some parts of France." He has therein discussed the causes of contagion, with the means of remedying and preventing them, and concludes by some reflections on the utility of extensive public lazarettos.

M. Leroy, in his ardor for the advancement of medical science, and more particularly that branch which relates to the health of the female sex, has had the boldness to advise, in a case of schirrous uterus, the revival of the operations first practised by Osiander, and since executed by M. Depuytren with all the dexterity for which he is distinguished. I merely indicate these subjects, leaving it to our colleagues to give the interesting details to the public, if they think proper.

Our colleague, M. Petit Radell, continues to be occupied in editing several articles for the *Encyclopedie Methodique*. We know that almost the whole of the surgical part of this grand dictionary has been executed of late by this laborious professor. We shall find, in succeeding numbers, several medical articles by M. Petit Radell ; among others, those which relate to hereditary, moral, nervous, organic, rheumatic, soporific, and syphilitic diseases ; we shall also therein find the article, "Ancient and Modern Physicians, as well religious as atheistical."

It could not be difficult for our colleague to prove the religious character of several of our professional brethren ; but has he shewn, with equal clearness, that others among them have merited the reproach of atheism. Is not this rather one of those outrages inconsiderately committed upon great minds, by the intolerance of ignorant sectaries, or by the interested supporters of the most ridiculous superstition ? We see, on the contrary, that even in the days of polytheism, the religion of the physicians, in conformity to reason, rose above vulgar credulity. How exemplary and beautiful was the worship of Galen, when, exploring the remains of men and the animals, the structure of

which he was studying. he said to the gods : "I shall describe these wonders, and they shall serve as the hymns by which I shall celebrate your power."

The alarm, more or less well founded, relative to the introduction into the capital, of a contagious fever, which raged in several places where the armies were quartered and fought, or left sick behind them, gave rise to instructions which were drawn up by the faculty of medicine. I shall respect the modesty of those who drew up these papers, and omit, like themselves, to publish their names.

Many physicians and students of our faculty, have been sent to give assistance to the menaced and actually diseased departments; others have been of great service in the hospitals of Paris, while several have fallen victims to their humane exertions. Brilliant rewards have signalized the names of part of the survivors, and all have acquired just claims on the public gratitude.

Among the inaugural dissertations presented to the faculty, in course of the year, the following have been particularly remarked. I cite them in the chronological order in which they appeared.

1. Analytical Researches on Various Affections, in which the skin presents a blue colour, and in particular on those which have been designated by the name of cyanose, by M. Gintrac.

2. Dissertation on the Plague or Adeno-Nervous Fever, by M. Le Breton, of Rhodosto in Greece.

3. Observations intended to resolve the question, Is the Apoplexy which is Produced by an Afflux of Blood to the Brain susceptible of Cure? by M. Riobé.

We shall now speak of the labours of the members of the society of medicine, which we purposely confound with those of the Faculty of Medicine itself.

M. Alibert has given a new edition of his Elements of Therapeutics and Materia Medica; this work which was translated, as soon as it appeared, into several languages, has been long diffused and received among the most celebrated medical schools of Europe. Nothing can be more judicious than the course pursued by the author in this imperfect work, which is the result of much profound and well-directed study.

The *Precis* of M. Alibert, respecting mineral waters, has this year received many important additions.

His great work on the Diseases of Skin sustains its reputations; the ninth number, which treats of syphilitic affections, is full of striking matter; the rare perfection, which we see in the execution of the plates, gives a great interest to those objects, hideous as they are. We expect, with a lively impatience, the continuation of this magnificent work, in which scrúfulous cutaneous diseases will be treated.

M. Roux, has published a "Memoir and Observations on the Immediate Union of the Wound after the Circular Amputation of the Limbs in their Continuity, and particularly after the Amputation of the Thigh," which were read to the class of Physics and Mathematics of the Institute, on the 21st of March, 1814.

This paper, the object of which, is to discuss and revive from observations actually made, methods which have been rejected, opposed, or laid aside, has been sufficiently appreciated, and has received the encouragement which it deserves, in a report by Messrs. Percy and Deschamps, adopted by the Institute, and published at the end of their memoirs and observations for the year.

M. Roux has added a curious case of a divergent strabismus of the right eye, cured in an adult, who was affected with it from infancy.

We are of opinion, that concerning a deformity in an organ so sensible as the eye, not only are repeated experiments requisite, but there must also be a permanency in the relief or the cure, ere we can decide upon the merit of the method, and ascertain, if we may be allowed the expression, what is truly specific.

Since the publication of the work just announced, M. Roux has made a visit to London, and we are assured that he intends to publish some observations, in order to make us acquainted with the particular practice of the most eminent surgeons of that capital. Such communications must be very instructive when coming from enlightened and impartial men, who have had time to look calmly around them; it will be at once advantageous and pleasing to know the successors or rivals of Pott, John Hunter, Keate, and Blizard.

M. Nysten has published a "Dictionary of Medicine and of the Accessary Sciences," 1 vol. 8vo. This work cannot fail to be very useful to students.

And why should we omit an important work, composed by a young Spanish physician who graduated with our Faculty, and

by the circumstances of the times, became, in some measure, one of our adopted sons ?

M. Orfila, the gentleman in question, has this year published a "Treatise on Poisons from Mineral Vegetables and Animals." This general toxology is drawn up with a due regard to physiology, pathology, and medical jurisprudence. Such a work, put forth with the assistance of several experiments and accurate observations, ought to be the better received, as it was really a desideratum in medicine and jurisprudence. In fact, all preceding treatises are, without exception, incomplete, inaccurate, and far behind the present state of our knowledge.

M. Orfila, in the first place, carefully describes the physical and sensible characters of poisons in their simple and natural state, and afterwards indicates the chemical properties of those substances, noting, with great exactness, the phenomena which they exhibit by means of the great number of re-agents.

M. Orfila afterwards shews the difference which poison, when mixed with food of various kinds, presents with the same re-agents. But, what most concerns our art and the public security, is the indication of the best methods of arresting the action or incipient effects of poison, and remedying the disorders which they have already produced on the animal economy.

We think it right to observe, that we have promoted of late years to the degree of doctor of medicine, several Spaniards of the greatest promise ; they have sustained, in the midst of us, by the lustre of their talents, a valuable portion of the national honour, while the majority of their fellow-countrymen, full of the recollection of the valorous achievements of their ancestors, have broken the yoke which an execrable tyrant sought to impose on them.

The Bulletin of the Faculty and of the Society of Medicine, the editing of which is confided to professor Dumeril, has communicated to the world, more or less in detail, whatever has been most interesting to the profession ; we may remark in particular, in a recent number, the extract of an observation on the ligature of the external iliac artery, communicated by M. Bouchet, chief surgeon to the Hotel-Dieu, of Lyons. This fact, with the manner in which it was brought forward, and the reflections which it occasioned in the society, remind us of the most flourishing days of the old royal academy of surgery.



I must now call your attention to the losses which we have experienced. We have already observed that the faculty of medicine, and the society formed in its bosom, are indissolubly knit together. It is thus, as a member of the society which forms part of our schools, that I shall express our common regret for the loss of one who honoured me with his particular regard—Charles Louis Dumas. When upon the death of Grimaud, cut off, from his professional career, at the age of thirty-seven, it was you, Dumas, who placed yourself in the ranks to succeed him; you saw, without regret, the crown adjudged to Fouquet, who, at the age of sixty five, could no longer have any rivals. Another chair became vacant by the death of M. Sabatier, and the keeper of the seals of France, who honoured you with his esteem, wished you to fill it. Afraid lest it should appear that you were indebted to favour and not to your own merits, you scrupled not to re-descend into the arena.

The writings of Dumas may be classed under three different heads; the first belong to the institutions or elements, and are purely anatomical or anatomico-physiological; the second relate to practical medicine; and the third class is composed of various isolated pieces, such as memoirs, observations, discourses, and eloges.

We shall take a cursory view of these various productions, not according to the division which we have established, but in chronological order, which will best exhibit the progress and history of his mind.

Dumas made his debut in 1785, at the age of twenty only, by an inaugural dissertation upon "Life;" this first performance indicates the direction which his mind took and constantly preserved from that moment.

A short time afterwards, he was a candidate for a prize, proposed by the Royal Society of Medicine; it was required "to determine in what species and what periods of chronic diseases fever may be useful or dangerous, and with what precaution we ought to excite or moderate it in their treatment." The memoir published by Dumas on this occasion is a judicious selection of the opinions of the best authors. Before the age of experience we can only resolve similar questions in this way—the prize was divided between Dumas and M. Pujol, formerly a practitioner at Castress in Languedoc.

Dumas published, for the competition of the year 1790, to which we have alluded, a series of Theses, which conformably to the custom of the faculty of Montpellier, were composed, distributed and sustained, within the space of fifteen days.

In 1791 Dumas gave an edition of the "Complete Course of Fevers," of the late De Grimaud, in 4 volumes 8vo. conformably to an autograph copy specified in the testament of the estimable author. Dumas was anticipated a few months or weeks by a self-elected editor, who without delicacy published the same work in three volumes only; and in the same form the opinions of medical men are divided as to the merit of the two editions.

Dumas was associated the same year with M. Petit D'Arsen in translating an "Essay on the Nature and Treatment of Pulmonary Consumption," written in English by Thomas Reid. This work contains only one fact and its inductions; this fact is, that the vomiting arising from sea sickness has been known to give relief in incipient phthisis; the inductions are, that repeated emetics in small doses might be useful in the treatment in the same disease, and in the same stage. Without discussing the merits of the original work we may affirm that the translators, by adding a preface and notes, have succeeded in making a far better book.

Elected professor of Anatomy and Physiology in 1795, Dumas published in 1797, in 1 volume 4to. a treatise on Myology, after the manner of Winslow, Albinus and Chaussier; this work is entitled, "Methodical System of the Nomenclature and Classification of the Muscles of the Human Body, with descriptive tables for recalling their ancient names, their new names, situations, attachments, direction, composition, figure, connection and use." A dictionary containing the whole *synonymy* of the muscles terminates this treatise. It is an imitation and an extension of the work of one of our colleagues whom we have mentioned constantly, preceded by general principles and reflections on the formation of languages.

Dumas published in 1800, and in 4 volumes 8vo. his "Principles of Physiology, or introduction to the experimental, philosophical, and medical knowledge of the living man." He brings forward with address whatever was most important on this subject, grounding his opinions in preferences upon the writings of Stahl, Haller, and Grimaud. Another person who approached in some respects the first, who in point of erudition equalled the

second, and who surpassed the third in every respect, (I mean Barthey,) was offended at the silence of Dumas, who in borrowing several of his ideas had forgotten to acknowledge their author. Barthey had a right to complain, and he did so with that air of authority which was peculiar to him, and which he but too strictly maintained in this discussion.

I pass over slightly the "Physiological Sketch on the Transformation of the Organs."—*Journal de Physique*, 1805 and 1806. To believe that the stomach can fulfil the functions of the brain, and *vice versa*, the brain those of the stomach, would be to return to the chimerical ideas of Paracelsus and Van Helmont. It was quite in a different spirit that Dumas published an observation, that does great honour to his talents, on the subject of an epilepsy rendered intermittent, and afterwards cured by the administration of bark.—*Journal de Medicine*.

Dumas pronounced in 1804 a Discourse on the Future Progress of the Science of Man. His hopes were founded on the continuation of the application of analysis, and the perfection of the faculty of observation.

A new edition of his Physiology as before, in 4 volumes 8vo. appeared in 1806.

The Eloges of Fouquet and Dorthey, published the first in 1807 and the second in 1808, are two papers which do equal honour to the head and heart of Dumas. He had, it is true, in praising the former, merely to repeat what medical Europe had proclaimed for thirty years; but he had to make known in the latter a man nearly of the same age with himself, a former competitor for the same chair, and a rival for glory in the same school; although Dorthey, in a more especial manner, cultivated other branches of the natural sciences, in which he has left a great name.

We now come to a period of his life when Dumas published a work more original, and more peculiarly his own, if I may be allowed the expression, than any of the foregoing. It is the best of his productions, and also the last.

The treatise of Dumas on "Chronic Diseases," is divided into four parts. In the first, he explains the essential phenomena of these diseases, and the differences which exist between them and acute diseases. The second part explains the theory of the formation of chronic diseases. In the third part, he examines the modifications produced in diseases, by age, sex, passions,

and influence of climate. The last and fourth part exhibits the application of the distinction of the elementary affections to the treatment of diseases.

This work, although very extensive, remained imperfect until it was followed by a volume of developments and applications to a great number of observations. When Dumas wrote this treatise, which appeared at Paris in 1812, he enjoyed a high reputation, which could only be increased by it; he was surrounded by that consideration which his talents and his eminent social qualities merited; finally, he was loaded with academical, literary, and other honors of every kind, when he died at Montpellier, on the 3d of April, 1813, at the age of forty-seven.

We have still another heavy loss to deplore, and it is still more recent and more premature; we mean that of Julien Jean Cæsar Le Gallois, who died in February last.

Professor Dumeril has already published a very interesting account of Le Gallois, the son of an honest agriculturalist in easy circumstances; he received a liberal education: he gave early signs of talent, and on finishing his studies he felt a *penchant* for medicine which he studied in the university of Caen, which reckoned among its medical professors, Chibourg, Le Canu and Rousell, and which had produced Vicq-d'Azyr, Thouret and Vauquelin. The revolution about this period assumed a most frightful shape. Those who still retained some sentiments of commiseration and some ideas of equity, and the young in particular, burning with indignation, ranged themselves under the standard of a party which has since been distinguished—that of *Federalism*. Le Gallois became, under these circumstances, one of the leaders of the students. It is useless, impolitic, and perhaps dangerous, to dwell upon those times of calamity; suffice it to say, that the party in question was crushed in Calvados as well as throughout France, and that Le Gallois, obliged to fly, hid himself first at Paris, where he was discovered; that he took refuge among the sciences, and was so fortunate as to be employed in the manufacture of salt-petre in a department at a distance from the capital. Upon the formation of the three schools of medicine he returned to Paris, where he was received as one of the pupils from the departments; among his fellow students he was distinguished, and began by fixing the attention of the learned world upon him by his Thesis for the doctorate on the following question: “Is the blood identically the same in all the

vessels which it passes through?" This production announced a man of science, who was determined to proceed in his studies by the thorny, but otherwise fertile, road of experience.

Le Gallois shortly afterwards took part in the discussions occasioned by the famous thesis of Boulet, who in an ingenious and erudite paradox, threw some doubt on the existence of Hippocrates.

Suddenly a grand idea struck Le Gallois and absorbed all the faculties of his mind, he sought for the solution of the boldest problem, for he sought nothing less than the discovery of the principle of life.

The history of the sciences exhibits to us the first chemists as almost all occupied for centuries with the transmutation of the metals and the universal panacea; they could neither create gold, nor prolong the life of men; and yet they enriched the arts with numerous useful processes, and medicine with several very powerful remedies.

Le Gallois did not succeed any more than they in determining in what life precisely consists, and perhaps it is not given to the feeble intelligence of man to discover the primordial laws of the great phenomena of our organization; but in seeking for the solution of a question still undecided, Le Gallois threw great light on several very important points in physiology; he is, in this respect, the most distinguished man which our school has produced since Bichat.

The labours of Le Gallois are contained in a work, entitled "Experiments on the Principle of Life, particularly on that of the Motion of the Heart, and on the Seat of this Principle;" this valuable collection of facts has produced a work equally important, viz. the report made on this subject to the first class of the institute by Baron Humboldt, so dear to the sciences on many accounts, and our colleagues Hallé and Percy; these gentlemen caused to be repeated before them, 1st, the series of experiments relative to the principle of the inspiratory movements: 2d, the experiments relative to the principles of the powers of the heart. But these subjects cannot be analyzed in the present discourse.

Le Gallois has also left a work on the teeth of the rabbit and the Guinea pig; on the duration of gestation in the latter animal, and on the relaxation of the symphysis pubis at the moment of parturition; the observations and experiments on these various subjects were made while Le Gallois was inquiring into the principle of life.

The result of all his inquiries and experiments relative to circulation, are also printed in the excellent article Heart, (*Cœur*) which Le Gallois supplied for the New Dictionary of the Medical Sciences, which reckons among its authors several professors of this faculty, and almost all the most distinguished physicians and surgeons of this capital.

Le Gallois who was qualified by his education and talents to practice either surgery or medicine, adhered to the latter branch of the healing art; he had been nearly a twelvemonth physician to the Bicetre; he had lived in Paris, and it was when proceeding on foot to his duty, as he frequently did, that he was attacked by a peripneumonia, to which he fell a victim in the beginning of February, last year, leaving an interesting family inconsolable for his loss.

We have to express our regret that we cannot detain you a few minutes longer, by detailing at full length the life of Villars, dean of the faculty of medicine of Strasburg, and associate of our society of medicine, who died on the 27th of June last.

The details of his life would exhibit to your view a man deprived almost from birth of all hope of acquiring the slightest knowledge of letters, you would see afterwards by what difficult bye-paths, and how with talents almost entirely flowing from nature, he attained an honorable place among the physicians, and particularly the most distinguished botanists of the day.

The intimacy of Villars in his youth with J. J. Rousseau, his zeal for the instruction of the numerous pupils whose minds he formed, his humane attentions to the sick as physician to a great military hospital, or a practitioner among all classes of society, will present some affecting traits to whoever shall draw up his *elogé* with all the extent it deserves.

Let us no longer withhold the recompenses which await those, who at the last exhibition of our practical school ought to be preserved as examples for the emulation of their fellow students.

This last exhibition has not been in truth so numerously attended as on other occasions, and the candidates have not given the same proofs of proficiency as in preceding years; he whose name was first called was a convalescent from a severe disease, contracted in the hospital when he underwent his examination; the other candidates who will receive prizes after him, whatever be the place which they occupy, are equally worthy of encouragement and indulgence, both on account of their exertions, and

of the arduous circumstances in which they found themselves at the end of the last and the beginning of the present year.

Let us all now forget the violent and too long continued misery from which we have but just emerged, and listen to the consolations of the peace, which can alone soften down our past misfortune.

But what have we not to expect, gentlemen, from the advancement of medical knowledge under the reign of a prince, who finds so many beautiful examples in every page of the history of the kings, his ancestors and predecessors, the establishments which Louis IX, Francis I, Henry IV, Louis XIV, Louis XV, and Louis XVI, consecrated to letters and to humanity, are ever present in the memory, and engraved on the heart of Louis XVIII; he has come among us to restore and to preserve; surrounded by the councils of wisdom, he will preserve for us whatever is good, and will improve whatever can be made better.