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Jacques Seligmann & Co. records, General Correspondence: French Embassy, 1926-1969

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Charleston, S.C., June 2, 1876.

M. V. Philippe and Son, 2 and 4, Place des Penitents de la Croix, Lyons, France - Gentlemen : It was with the greatest pleasure I received your honored letter of the 15th of May, in which you state, at first, that it would be impossible to purchase the desired portrait of our illustrious Washington.

But how shall I express to you the emotion I felt upon learning that you would so generously give your only copy to the care of the company of which I have had the honor of being commandant. You may rest assured that the company will be most proud to have such a magnificent gift of the artistic talent of La Belle France.

Although half a century has elapsed since Lafayette was the honored guest of our city, tradition still holds it in lively remembrance, and there are a few veterans among us, not yet harvested by death, who formed a part of the escort of your illustrious compatriot when he entered Charleston.

At the next meeting of the Washington Light Infantry, I shall have the honor of announcing this most generous sacrifice on your part and of your son, and the chivalrous way in which it is done. The company will then have the honor of communicating with you officially and will inform you of the best method of shipment.

M. le Consul de France Mons a Truey is very happy at the receipt of your good wishes and begs me to assure you that he will do all in his power to aid in the safe delivery of the portrait.

With the assurance of my regard and esteem, I am, dear sirs, very respectfully,

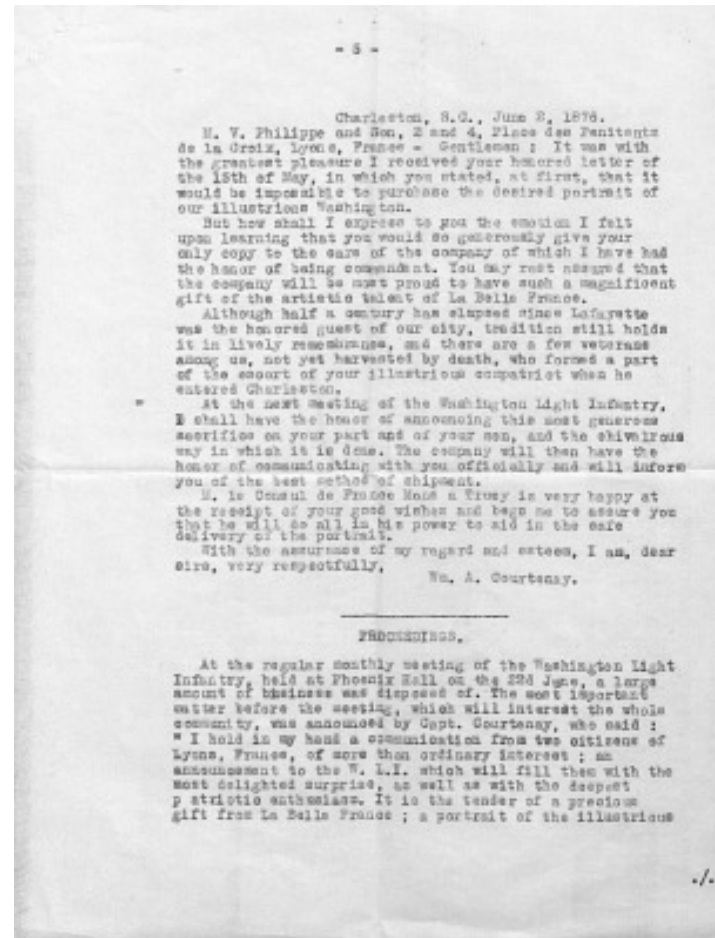
Wm. A. Courtenay.

[[horiz line]]

PROCEEDINGS.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Washington Light Infantry, held at Phoenix Hall on the 22d June, a large amount of business was disposed of. The most important matter before the meeting, which will interest the whole community, was announced by Capt. Courtenay, who said : " I hold in my hand a communication from two citizens of Lyons, France, of more than ordinary interest ; an announcement to the W. L.I. which will fill them with the most delighted surprise, as well as with the deepest patriotic enthusiasm. It is the tender of a precious gift from La Belle France ; a portrait of the illustrious

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