

next year furthered Berthier's election to the Royal Society.) At the house of the Marquis de Courtanvaux, soldier and member of the French Academy of Sciences, Franklin met the Abbé Chappe d'Auteroche, astronomer and traveller, and told him of the elephant [mastodon] tusks and teeth which George Croghan had shipped to London from the Ohio country. (After Franklin's return he sent one of the teeth to the abbé, and asked if any like it had been found in Siberia.)

At the request of his friends in Paris Franklin wrote a paper on lightning and the way Americans secured their houses from it.<sup>14</sup> He began with the clearest statement of the general principles involved and ended with the homeliest advice. "A person apprehensive of danger from lightning, happening during the time of thunder to be in a house not so secured, will do well to avoid sitting near the chimney, near a looking-glass, or any gilt picture or wainscot; the safest place is in the middle of the room (so it be not under a metal lustre suspended by a chain), sitting in one chair and laying the feet up in another. It is still safer to bring two or three mattresses or beds [then usually feathers] into the middle of the room and, folding them double, place the chair upon them; for, they not being so good conductors as the walls, the lightning will not choose an interrupted course through the air of the room and bedding when it can go through a continued better conductor the wall. But where it can be had, a hammock or swinging bed suspended by silk cords equally distant from the walls on every side and from the ceiling and floor above and below affords the safest situation a person can have in any room whatever; and what indeed may be deemed quite free from danger of any stroke by lightning."

To Franklin the most important friends he made in Paris were not electricians but economists. During the first week in October, just before he left for London, he met François Quesnay, physician to the king, and leader of the school which the next year began to be called the physiocrats. Franklin missed seeing Pierre-Samuel du Pont de Nemours, the member of the group who gave it its name, but he enjoyed the "civilities" of the Marquis de Mirabeau (father of the revolutionary orator). Franklin had hitherto, it seems, heard little about the physiocrats, or they about him.