



*Joseph Bonaparte*

*lumbia*. Hopkinson's father had been a signer of the Declaration of Independence for New Jersey. Joseph had read widely and studied the arts in France, Spain and Italy. Victor Hugo and Bernardin St. Pierre, author of *Paul and Virginia*, had deep affection and respect for him, as did many others in the arts and sciences. In the first years of his exile in America he became acquainted with many of the political leaders. Later, some of them--Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster and Richard Stockton, a New Jersey signer of the Declaration of Independence, among others--were his good friends.

The people of Bordentown accepted Napoleon's brother as a friend and neighbor. Joseph was fond of the children and permitted them to use his lake for swimming and ice-skating. They spoke of him as "the good Mr. Bonaparte" to distinguish him from the Emperor. Joseph went out of his way to find work on his estate for poorer members of the community, employing them for landscaping and woodchopping. Carved in Latin on the pavilion at Point Breeze were the words: