

THE ANTIGUA PRESS
AND BENJAMIN MECOM, 1748-1765¹

BY WILBERFORCE EAMES

THE close relation existing between printing and the post-office has been set forth in an interesting way by Mr. Worthington C. Ford in a series of letters from James Parker to Benjamin Franklin, printed for the first time in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1902.²

Franklin was appointed postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737, when thirty-one years of age, and in 1753 he was made deputy-postmaster-general of the British Colonies on the continent. These positions were an advantage to him in extending his connections, and at the same time an inducement to establish printing presses and gazettes in other places. The most important of these branches was in the City of New York, where he entered into a co-partnership with James Parker in 1742 for starting a new press and newspaper. The Articles of Agreement, dated February 20, 1741-42, were printed in Mr. Ford's paper, and show that Franklin was to provide the printing press and type, pay the cost of freight to New York, and bear one-third of the current expenses. In return he was to have one-third of the profits.

Several of the British West India islands had printers and newspapers, like Jamaica, Barbados and St. Kitts; but Antigua, fifty miles east of the latter,

¹In the preparation of this paper I am under special obligations to Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, who first started me on it, and who has supplied most of the extracts which are herein quoted, from the original letters of Franklin in his possession.

²Second series, vol. 16, pp. 186-232.

had none. To supply this want Franklin decided, in 1748, to send a printing outfit to St. John's, the chief town of the island. He chose as manager a young man named Thomas Smith, who had worked for him in Philadelphia, and also in his New York office under Parker. Writing from Philadelphia to William Strahan in London, October 19, 1748, he says:

I have lately sent a Printing-house to Antigua, by a very sober, honest and diligent young Man, who has already (as I am inform'd by divers Hands) gain'd the Friendship of the Principal People, and is like to get into good Business. This will open another Market for your Books if you think fit to use it, for I am persuaded that if you shall send him a Parcel with any Quantity of Stationery he may write to you for, he will make you good and punctual Returns. His Name is Thomas Smith; he is the only Printer on that Island; had work'd with me here, and at my Printing-house in New York 3 or 4 years, and always behaved extreamly well.

B. FRANKLIN.

The exact date when the new press began work in the printing office on Kerby's Wharf in St. John's is not known with certainty. An entry in Franklin's Ledger "D," under date of April 16, 1748, on page 86, opens the account of Thomas Smith Dr., Antigua, for cash loaned, skins, ink, paper, etc. For this memorandum I am indebted to Mr. George Simpson Eddy. The naval war between France and England in the West Indies at that time must have delayed the enterprise, and active fighting did not cease until June. In the summer or early autumn a newspaper was started, called "The Antigua Gazette"; but no specimens of this first series has been found. The earliest mention of it by name which has come to our notice is in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" of September 22, 1748, where there is a news paragraph beginning, "From the Antigua Gazette we learn," etc. Six months later, in the "Supplement to the Pennsylvania Gazette, No. 1059," of March 28, 1749, is a long extract "From the Antigua Gazette, St. John's, March 3, 1749." Here we have the actual date of issue, which

was on a Friday. Besides these two references, there are twenty-two dated news items from St. John's, Antigua, running through 1749, 1750, and 1751, which do not name the paper, but were without doubt copied from it. These dated paragraphs extend from October 7, 1748, to September 20, 1751, every date being on a Friday. We may be sure, therefore, that the "Antigua Gazette" was started as early as Friday, September 9, 1748, if not before, and that it was still being published three years later on Friday, September 20, 1751.

The first book printed at St. John's was probably the "Occasional Poems" of the Rev. William Shervington, with the imprint, *Antigua: Printed by T. Smith, for the Author, MDCCXLIX*. It is a small quarto of 92 pages, with a dedication "To His Excellency, William Mathew, Captain-General and Governor in Chief in and over all His Majesty's Leeward Caribbee-Islands in America," etc. The author, whose name appears not on the title but at the close of the dedication, conducted a Seminary at St. John's for the education of youth. He was married there on February 14, 1750-51, to Catherine Toole, and died in December, 1763. His descendants still reside on the island. Two copies of the book have been traced. One is in the British Museum; the other, as Mr. Brigham informs me, was discovered here in Worcester in 1919, and is now owned by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach of Philadelphia, who has kindly loaned it to me for use in this paper.

The title and dedication leaf are paged as iv, followed next by the poems on page 9 with sheet mark C, there being no sheet B or pages 5 to 8 in either of the two copies, and in this condition the book seems to be complete. The contents comprise: The Christian Hero 9-13; The Gentleman, an Heroic Poem (in two cantos) 14-29; The Antigonian Beauties 30-39; The Ladies Advocate 40-44; The Lover's Resolution 45-48; The Judgment of Love 49-57; The Choice of a Wife 58-60; A Pindaric Ode to God 61-65; Content 66; Ænigma 67-68; To C. C. Esq.; upon his Epitaph on

Pope 68-69; The thirteenth Ode, of the fourth Book of Horace 69-71; To Leonilla, on the Loss of her Eye 71-72; Life and Death 72-73; The Faith of Man 73-74; Occasion'd by the Death of a fine Hunter, call'd, Galgo 74-75; On a French Expedition in 1745 75; Florimel at the Ball 76; A Prayer 77; To the Memory of Lieut. Geo. Kelsall 77-78; Occasion'd by the Death of Dr. Fergus 79-80; Mira, a Song 80-82; Lovely Polly 83-85; Spring 86-88; three Songs 88-92; Finis.

The principal poem in the book is "The Antigonnia Beauties: occasioned by seeing the Assembly at St. John's, Antigua, on Thursday the 7th of July, 1748," which fills pages 30 to 39. The word "Assembly" does not refer to the legislative body but to a social affair. Invoking the aid of the muses the poet begins:

Ye sacred Nine, whose sweetly flowing strains,
So long have charm'd Britannia's blissful plains;

* * * * *

O let me thence your heav'nly aid implore,
To themes unsung by British Muse before:
The sparkling charms of th' Antigonian fair;
For Beauty still shou'd be the Muses care:
For this, forsake your lov'd retreats awhile,
And deign to visit our remoter Isle.

He then describes the personal charms of Delia, Sacharissa, Flavia, and ten other beauties, and continues:

These are the suns that gild our happy plains,
The queens that share imperial love's domains,
Imperial love, that passion wisely giv'n,
To shew mankind a glimpse of future heav'n;
Where happy spirits find in endless love,
The most sublime of all the joys above.
And now the charmers fill the flaming hall,
And form in choreal sets th' harmonious ball:
In mazy dance to mirthful music move,
And charm the soul ten thousand ways to love.

It is easy to imagine, in reading these lines, that one of the queens of the "Assembly" became the poet's bride in February 1751, two and a half years later;

and that the newly wedded pair took a sea voyage to Boston, where they attended another "Assembly" in King Street. That there may be some reason for this guess, is suggested by the title of the separate Boston reprint of the poem, which reads, "The Antigonian and Bostonian Beauties; A Poem. Occasion'd by seeing the Assembly, at St. John's, Antigua, on Thursday the 7th of July, and afterwards at Boston, in King-street," the book being more fully described in the list at the end.

The next book on our record appeared in 1750, under the title, "Medulla Medicinæ Universæ: Or, A New Compendious Dispensatory. Wherein is contain'd, in a direct summary Way, all that is essentially necessary to answer every medicinal Intention of Cure." It was advertised in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" of November 1, 1750, as "*Lately published at Antigua, and to be sold at the Post-Office, Philadelphia (Price 2 s.)*" The long title as printed in the advertisement sets forth that it was compiled at the command of His Royal Highness the Duke, for the use of the Military Hospital Abroad, by the King's Physicians and Surgeons, the Surgeon General, and the Apothecary General of the Army. From other sources we learn that it was edited by Dr. John Theobald, and that the three earlier London editions of 1747, 1748, and 1749 contained only 108 pages each. The advertisement states that the Antigua issue was the "fourth edition, revised, corrected, and (in regard of the Comment) considerably augmented: together with an additional appendix, and some practical suggestions on the use and abuse of Bleeding." The additions to the commentary and the new appendix were by Dr. Theobald, who was probably in Antigua when the book was printed. This fourth edition was reprinted in London in 1752, and was followed by a fifth edition in 1756, a sixth in 1761, and a seventh in 1771. No copy of the Antigua edition has been located.

It has been stated already that the "Antigua Gazette" was still being published in September, 1751. How long it continued after that time is unknown, because the dated news items from St. John's ceased to appear in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" for the next fourteen months. From this long silence it may be inferred that publication of the paper had stopped, probably on account of the illness and subsequent death of Thomas Smith, in June or July, 1752. With reference to this event and the sending of his nephew Benjamin Mecom to continue the business in Antigua, Dr. Franklin wrote to his sister Mrs. Mecom, on September 14, 1752, the first day of the new style calendar, as follows:

Benny sailed from hence this Day two Weeks, and left our Capes the Sunday following. They are seldom above 3 Weeks on the Voyage to Antigua. That Island is reckoned one of the healthiest in the West Indies. My late Partner there enjoy'd perfect Health for four Years, till he grew careless and got to sitting up late in Taverns, which I have caution'd Benny to avoid, and have given him all other necessary Advice I could think of relating both to his Health & Conduct, and hope for the best. He will find the Business settled to his Hand, a Newspaper establish'd, no other Printing-house to interfere with him, or beat down his Prices, which are much higher than we get on the Continent. He has the Place on the same Terms with his Predecessor, who I understand cleared 5 or 600 Pistoles during the 4 Years he lived there. I have recommended him to some Gentlemen of Note, for their Patronage & Advice. Mr. Parker, tho' he looked on Benny as one of his best Hands, readily consented to his going on the first Mentioning of it. I told him Benny must make him Satisfaction for his Time. He said he would leave that to be settled by me; and Benny as readily agreed with me to pay Mr. Parker as much as would hire a good Journeyman in his Room. He came handsomely provided with Apparel, and I believe Mr. Parker has in every respect done his Duty by him, and in this Affair has really acted a generous Part; therefore I hope if Benny succeeds in the World he will make Mr. Parker a Return beyond what he has promis'd. . . . Antigua is the Seat of Government for all the Leeward Islands, to wit, St. Christophers, Nevis, and Montserrat. Benny will have the Business of all those Islands, there being no other Printer.

The day of Mecom's sailing for Antigua, mentioned in the letter as "this day two weeks," would not fall on September 1st, but really on Thursday, August 20th; because the calendar was changed to "new style" in 1752 by leaving out eleven days in September, from the 3rd to the 13th inclusive, so that the date of the letter, September 14th, was exactly two weeks after August 20th, 1752.

Benjamin Mecom was born in Boston on December 29, 1732, the son of Edward Mecom, and the third of twelve children. His mother was a younger sister of Benjamin Franklin. He had learned the printer's trade in his uncle's New York establishment under James Parker, and was at this time in his twentieth year. The following extract of a letter from Franklin to William Strahan in London, dated May 9, 1753, continues the record:

I have settled a nephew of mine in Antigua, in the place of Mr. Smith, deceased. I take him to be a very honest, industrious lad, and hope he will do well there, and in time be of some use to you as a correspondent. Please to send him a little cargo of books and stationery agreeable to the invoice below. I will send you a bill on this account perhaps per next ship.

B. FRANKLIN.

On Mr. Mecom's arrival at St. John's, in September 1752, the first business requiring his attention was the resumption of the "Antigua Gazette," publication of which had been suspended for many months. Instead of continuing the old numbering, however, a new series was started with Number 1, which appears to have been issued as formerly on a Friday. The exact date of the first issue is uncertain, but may be approximately inferred from the reappearance in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" of December 7 and following issues of dated news items from St. John's, Antigua. The earliest of these items are dated St. John's November 3, 10, 17 and 24, 1752, each date being on a Friday, and in the issue of February 6, 1753, several of these items have the heading, "Advices from the

Antigua Gazette." This newspaper was continued by Mr. Mecom for about four years, until June, 1756, or later. The usual day of publication was Friday, as shown by the quoted news items in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" through 1753 and 1754, and down to January 10, 1755; but in February of 1755 a change was made to Tuesday and Saturday, twice a week, for the rest of the year. The single number belonging to the Society is the only one that has been found, and is dated Saturday, April 12, 1755, Number 130, "Containing the Freshest Advices, with Politics & Entertainment," with a motto from Pope, and the imprint, *Antigua: Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the Old Printing-Office on Kerby's Wharff, in St. John's*. It has the royal arms in the title heading, and is a well printed four page paper of three columns to each page, and as large as the "Pennsylvania Gazette." In this number is an advertisement requesting the gentlemen in the Leeward Islands who received the money for copies of "A Sermon preached before the Free and Accepted Masons, in the Town of St. John's, Antigua, on the 24th June, 1754," to send the same to Mr. Baker in St. John's, or to the Rev. Mr. Shervington, who was probably the author. This pamphlet sermon was probably printed by Mr. Mecom in 1754.

We come now to the reasons which led to the removal of this printing press from the island, as related in letters from Franklin to Mecom's mother. Writing from New York on June 28, 1756, he says:

"You desire me to tell you what I know about Benny's Removal & the Reasons of it. Some time last year, when I return'd from a long Journey, I found a Letter from him which had lain some time unanswered; and it was some considerable Time afterwards before I knew of an Opportunity to send an Answer. I should first have told you, that when I set him up at Antigua, he was to have the use of the Printing House on the same Terms with his Predecessor, Mr. Smith; that is, allowing me one Third Part of the Profits. After this, finding him diligent & careful, for his Encouragement I relinquish'd that Agreement, and let him know that as you were remov'd

into a dearer House, if he paid you yearly a certain Sum, I forget what it was, towards discharging your Rent, and another small Sum to me in Sugar & Rum for my Family Use, he need keep no farther Accounts of the Profits, but should enjoy all the Rest to himself. I cannot remember what the whole of both Payments amounted to, but I think they did not exceed 20£ a year. The Truth is, I intended from the first to give him that Printing-House; but as he was very young & unexperienced in the World, I thought it best not to do it immediately but to keep him a little dependant for a Time, to check the flighty Unsettledness of Temper which on several Occasions he had discovered; and what I receiv'd from him I concluded to lay out in new Letters, that when I gave it him intirely it might be worth his Acceptance. And if I should die first, I put it in my Will, that the Letters should be all new cast for him.

This Proposal of paying you & me a certain annual Sum did not please him, and he wrote to desire I would explicitly tell him how long that annual Payment was to continue? whether on Payment of that, all prior Demands I had against him for the Arrears of our first Agreement, were likewise cancel'd? and finally insisted that I would name a certain Sum that I would take for the Printing House, & allow him to pay it off in Parts as he could, and then the yearly Payments to cease; for tho' he had a high Esteem for me, yet he lov'd Freedom, and his Spirit could not bear Dependance on any Man, tho' he were the best Man living.

This was the Letter which occasionally remain'd, as I said, so long unanswer'd. At which he took farther Offence, and before I could answer it, I receiv'd another from him, acquainting me, that he had come to a Resolution to remove from that Island; that his Resolution was fix'd, & nothing that could be said to him should move or shake it; and propos'd another Person to me to carry on the Business in his Room. This was immediately follow'd by another & a third Letter to the same purpose, all declaring the inflexibility of his Determination to leave the Island; but without saying where he propos'd to go, or what were his Motives. So I wrote him that I should not attempt to change his Resolution; that I made no Objection to his Quitting, but wish'd he had let me know where he was going; that as to the Person he recommended to succeed him, I had kept the Office there after Mr. Smith's Decease in hopes it might be of use to him (Benny) but since it was not agreeable to him to continue in it, I did not incline to be concern'd with any other there. However, if the Person would buy it, I nam'd the Price. If not, I directed it to be

pack'd up & sent home. All that I desir'd of him, was to discharge what he ow'd to Mr. Strahan, Bookseller in London, one of my Friends who had credited him on my Recommendation. By this Post I receiv'd the enclos'd Letter, & understand the Things are all arrived. I shall be very glad to hear he does better in another Place, but I fear he will not for some years be cur'd of his Fickleness, & get fix'd to any purpose. However we must hope for the best, as with this Fault he has many good Qualities & Virtues.

* * * * *

B. FRANKLIN.

Six months later, December 30, 1756, he wrote again:

You will receive this by the Hand of your Son Benjamin, on whose safe Return from the West Indies I sincerely congratulate you. He has settled Accounts with me, & paid the Ballance honourably. He has also clear'd the old Printing House to himself, and sent it to Boston, where he purposes to set up his Business together with Bookselling, which, considering his Industry & Frugality, I make no doubt will answer. He has good Credit & some Money in England, and I have help'd him by lending him a little more; so that he may expect a Cargo of Books and a Quantity of new Letter in the Spring; and I shall from time to time furnish him with Paper.

B. FRANKLIN.

He wrote also to William Strahan in London, January 1, 1757, with reference to Mecom's account, and added: "He has settled honourably with me and bought the old Antigua Office of me, and is gone to Boston to set up his Business there among his Friends and Relations, and has wrote to you to purchase him two new Founts, one of Long Primer, and one of Pica, for which I have furnish'd him with a Bill on Mr. Collinson for £50, lest you should not have receiv'd his Money." For this extract from an unpublished letter, I am indebted to Mr. George Simpson Eddy, and to the Huntington Library, which owns the original.

After the removal of the Franklin-Mecom press from St. John's, the publication of the "Antigua Gazette" was continued on another printing press

and by another printer whose name has not been ascertained, the dates of issue being on Tuesday and Saturday, twice a week, as formerly. Evidence of this fact rests on the quoted news items in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" of November 25th and December 16th, 1756, and of other dates through the following year, the paper being mentioned by name in the issues of April 28th and May 12th, 1757.

On this different Antigua press was printed a small volume which has been wrongly attributed to Benjamin Mecom as author and printer. Two copies have come to my notice. The first one appeared in the auction sale catalogue of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, at London, December 12th to 14th, 1907, as follows:

561 Mecom (Benjamin), A Poem, Addressed to a Young Lady, (15 ll.), inscription on title "A Monsieur, Monsieur le Baron de Walmoden," half bound, sm. 4 to—. St. John's Antigua, printed in the year 1757.

***This poem was written by the nephew and godson of Benjamin Franklin, who was born in Boston and apprenticed to his uncle in Philadelphia. It is the first book printed in Antigua in the West Indies, and is exceedingly rare.

This copy sold for £28.10s., and was bought by "Ross." The other copy was in the auction sale catalogue of Hodgson & Co., at London, June 10th and 11th, 1926; and was sold to Quaritch. It appeared in the catalogue as an anonymous book, with the number and heading "349 West Indies." Through the courtesy of Bernard Quaritch, Ltd., and of the present owner, Sir Robert Leicester Harmsworth, Bart., the last named copy was sent to me for examination.

The full title reads: "A Poem, Addressed to a Young Lady. *St. John's, Antigua: Printed in the Year 1757.*" It is a small quarto of 28 pages besides the title, and does not contain the author's name. Another edition, with additions and alterations, appeared sixteen years later with the following title: "A Poem, Addressed

to a Young Lady. In three parts. Part 1. Descriptive and Moral. 2. On Love and Friendship. 3. The Caution. . . . Written at Antigua. *Boston: Printed by Green and Russell. 1773.*" Octavo, pp. 33, including on the leaf following the title a printed form with blank spaces to be filled in by hand: "The Author presents his compliments to [] and begs [] acceptance of the annexed Poem." This presentation leaf was not in the 1757 edition. There are also many other differences; and although the first and last stanzas begin with the same lines in both editions, the poem was mostly rewritten. A copy of the 1773 edition in the library of the Boston Athenæum (not 1770 as in Evans 11688), has written on the title page, "Given by Mr. J. White," and in the same hand above the imprint, "It is said by Henry Hulton Esq. late com'r of the Board of Customs."

Mr. Henry Hulton served as Commissioner of Customs at Boston from 1767 to 1776. Selections from the correspondence of his sister Ann Hulton with friends in England during that period were printed at Cambridge by the Harvard University Press in 1927, under the title of "Letters of a Loyalist Lady," and in two of the letters there published, references are found to the "Poem," under the year 1773, one letter having the postscript: "There were several young Ladies here desiring a Copy of the Poem, so my Bro'r got a few Coppies printed." For this reference I am indebted to Miss Elinor Gregory.

Mr. Mecom arrived in Boston early in 1757, long before his press and types. According to Thomas's *History of Printing*,

He married in Newjersey, before he set up his press in Boston. He possessed good printing materials; but, there was something singular in his work, as well as in himself. He was in Boston several months before the arrival of his press and types from Antigua, and had much leisure. During this interval, he frequently came to the house [of Zechariah Fowle] where I was an apprentice. He was handsomely dressed, wore a powdered bob wig, ruffles and gloves; gentlemanlike ap-

pendages which the printers of that day did not assume—and, thus apparelled, would often assist, for an hour, at the press.

“An edition of *The New England Primer* being wanted by the booksellers, Z. Fowle consulted with Mecom on the subject, who consented to assist in the impression, on condition that he might print a certain number for himself. To this proposal Fowle consented, and made his contract with the booksellers. Fowle had no help but myself, then a lad in my eighth year. The impression consisted of ten thousand copies. The form was a small sixteens, on foolscap paper. The first form of the *Primer* being set up, while it was worked at the press, I was put to case to set the types for the second. Having completed this, and set up the whole cast of types employed in the work, and the first form being still at press, I was employed as a fly; that is, to take off the sheets from the tympan as they were printed, and pile them in a heap;—this expedited the work. While I was engaged in this business, I viewed Mecom at the press with admiration. He indeed put on an apron to save his clothes from blacking, and guarded his ruffles; but, he wore his coat, his wig, his hat and his gloves, whilst working at press; and, at case, laid aside his apron . . . Mecom was, however, a gentleman in his appearance and manners; had been well educated to his business; and, if “queer,” was honest and sensible; and called a correct and good printer.

After the two new founts of type, *Long Primer* and *Pica*, had been received from London, Mr. Mecom opened a printing house in Cornhill, nearly opposite to the Old Brick church, and near the Court House. The printing work was done on the upper floor, and books were sold on the lower floor. His first announcement appeared in the “*Boston Gazette, and Country Journal*,” No. 119, for Monday, July 11, 1757, as follows:

To be Sold, by Benjamin Mecom, Printer, over against the Old Brick Meeting House in Cornhill.

SCOTT'S Supplement to Chambers's Dictionary, 2 Vol. Fol. English Quarto & Octavo Bibles, Primers, several Classical Authors with Clarke's Translations, Malcom's Arithmetic, Stone's Mathematical Dictionary, The Merry Fellow, Watt's Astronomy, Martin's Dictionary, Barrow's Medicinal Dictionary, Common Prayers, and many other Books; Also Parchment, Demi, Royal, gilt Post, Marble and Cartridge Paper, by the Quire, &c. Large and small rul'd Books for Mussick.

At this location near the Town House, and under the name of "The New Printing-Office," Mr. Mecom continued in business for more than five years, until about the end of 1762. His first large undertaking was to print for the Boston booksellers, and with their different imprints, an edition of the "New-England Psalter," or Psalms of David according to the authorized English Bible. Although begun in 1757, it was not finished until 1758. In a letter to his mother, dated April 10th, 1758, he writes that he is still about an edition of the psalter and has not enough paper, for which reason he could not send her any money at that time, but promises to pay when the psalter is finished. (Am. Philos. Society Franklin Calendar, v., p. 180.) Thomas says the edition was 30,000 copies, that "he printed them on terms so low, that his profits did not amount to journeyman's wages," and that "this edition was two years worrying through the press."

Mr. Mecom's earliest Boston imprint appears to be the pamphlet entitled "God's Call to His People," by John Cotton of Plymouth, preached on June 30th, 1757. In 1758, besides finishing the "New-England Psalter," he reprinted in March, from Poor Richard's Almanac for that year, the collection of proverbs known as "Father Abraham's Speech." A few months later, in July, appeared a poem entitled "Gallic Perfidy," by John Maylem, relating to the battle at Lake George. His next undertaking was the "New-England Magazine," the first number being issued in August, the second in October, and the third in March of the following year. The publications for 1759, 1760, 1761 and 1762, beginning with "Poor Joseph's Almanack," are described in the list at the end of this essay. Those for 1760 were the most important, comprising nearly twenty titles, the best showing made by him at any time. The record of Mecom's printing in Boston closes with the year 1762. Mr. Thomas says that he was "deficient in the art of managing business to

profit," and adds the following interesting statement, which seems to belong to about this period:

He was the first person in this country as far as I know, who attempted stereotype printing. He actually cast plates for several pages of the New Testament, and made considerable progress toward the completion of them, but he never expected it.

Early in 1763, Mr. Mecom moved his printing press and materials to New York, where he set up the "Modern Printing-Office, on Rotten-Row," and started a newspaper called "The New-York Pacquet." Half a dozen numbers were issued in July and August, but it was soon discontinued; and besides a small pamphlet, nothing more is recorded with his New York imprint. Being unsuccessful in this undertaking, and having run into debt to James Parker and others, his printing materials and book stock, with the approval of Dr. Franklin, were placed in Parker's Store Room in New York, as security for these debts; and an arrangement was made for him to take charge of the Parker press in New Haven, at a rental, and to act as Parker's deputy in the postmastership there. He therefore removed to New Haven early in 1764, leaving the old Antigua press in storage.

At New Haven Mr. Mecom took charge of the press "At the Post-Office," which Thomas Green, acting as agent for and in the name of James Parker and Company, had been operating during the four preceding years. Here he printed books and pamphlets from 1764 to 1767, and on July 5, 1765, revived the "Connecticut Gazette," and continued it until February 19, 1768. He did not, however, make good his agreement to pay rental, and being pressed for payment by Mr. Parker, he resigned from the Post-Office in February, 1767, and another person was appointed postmaster in his place. The printing press, although in Parker's name, really belonged to Dr. Franklin, and when Mecom removed to Philadelphia in 1768, he took it with him, and opened a printing-office in Arch

Street, opposite the Presbyterian Meeting House. In January, 1769, he published a small octavo size sheet three times a week, called "The Penny Post, Containing Fresh News, Advertisements, Useful Hints, &c." This was soon discontinued, only nine numbers being recorded by Hildeburn, in possession of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

In the meantime Mecom's stock of books had remained in storage at New York, "waiting your Orders," as Parker wrote to Franklin on June 14th, 1765. Later letters from Parker refer to the unpaid debts; on March 27th, 1766, that not a penny has been received from Benny Mecom nor any reply to his letters; on May 6th, that Benny Mecom promises everything but does not pay a farthing; on July 1st, no money from B. Mecom; on August 27th, Benny Mecom generous in promises but never in payment; on February 23d, 1767, that his dunning of B. Mecom has occasioned that gentleman's resignation from the post-office; on June 13th, B. Mecom still at New Haven, but can get nothing from him; on January 21st, 1768, no hope of getting a copper of rent from Benny Mecom; on March 29th, 1769, describes in detail all his dealings with Benny Mecom; Mrs. Franklin blames him (Parker); appeals to Franklin to decide the matter; and on October 6th, that he has not touched B. Mecom's books as yet.

In January, 1770, Mr. Robert Bell, publisher and book auctioneer of Philadelphia, took a selection of his stock to New York to sell at public auction, and applied to Mr. Parker to print his advertisement. The latter suggested that Mecom's books be included in the same sale, and Mr. Bell consenting, they were unpacked and invoiced for that purpose. Writing to Franklin on February 2d, he reported what he had done, and promised to send one of the catalogues as soon as printed, with an account of sales. The sale was advertised in the two New York papers of February 5th, 1770, as follows:

Auction of Books. Just published, and to be had Gratis at the Place of Sale, A Catalogue of new and old Books, Consisting of History, Divinity, Biography, Surgery, Mathematics, Voyages, Travels, Poetry, Novels, and Entertainment. Which will be exhibited by Auction, by Robert Bell, Bookseller and Auctioneer, On Wednesday the 7th of February, 1770, and will continue selling for Seven or Eight Evenings successively; In the First Floor of the same House in which Mr. Darlington, Peruke-Maker, keeps his Shop, situated upon Hunter's Key, (vulgarly called Rotten-Row) near the Coffee-House, New-York. Hours of Sale each Evening, from Six to Eight o'Clock. The Lovers and real Practisers of Patriotism, are requested to take Notice, that all the Books in this Catalogue, are either American Manufacture, or imported long before the Non-Importation Agreement.

With his next letter of February 20th, Parker enclosed a printed catalogue of the auction, and explained that "all in this Catalogue to No. 103—were Mr. Bell's own.—Mecom's begins at No. 104—and continues to No. 309, the last 10 Numbers are another's Parcel.—The Sale is finished, but the Auctioneer has not settled the Account yet.—By Act of Assembly, there is a Duty on Goods sold at Auction here, and I was the Auctioneer's Security for that Duty, which is first to be settled;—As soon as we can get it done, I will take the Ballance and immediately purchase a Bill for it, and send it you, with the particular Account of Sales &c." On March 27th, he forwarded a Bill of Exchange which included £135, on account of B. Mecom's books sold at auction, and on May 10th, reported that the whole amount they brought was £175, promising to send the balance later, after the expenses had been deducted. Less than two months after this date, Mr. Parker died, July 2, 1770. (Mass. Hist. Society Proceedings, 2d series, vol. 16, pp. 221-228.)

The next we hear of Mr. Mecom is his application for a license to sell spirituous liquors, addressed to the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen of Philadelphia, and dated September 11, 1770. It was printed on a small leaf of two pages, and is described by Mr. Hildeburn, with the following extract, from the original belonging to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania:

Sir, Be pleased to permit me to inform you, that I have been in this City, a few Months more than two Years, during which Time I have endeavoured to get constant Employment at my own Business, but being disappointed, My Wife (the Bearer hereof) has been frequently advised to apply to your Worships for a Recommendation to his Honour the Governor, to grant us a License to sell spirituous Liquors by small Measure, at a House where we have now liv'd in almost a Quarter, where such Sale has been continued. We are not fond of the Prospect it affords, farther than as it may contribute to support a Number of young growing Children, whose Welfare we would earnestly and honestly endeavour to secur. If you, Sir, after Inquiry, should judge we are improper Persons to recommend, in this Case, I have only to desire that you will excuse the Application from Your respectful humble Servant, Benjamin Mecom, Printer.

He finally found employment at the "New Printing-Office" of William Goddard in Arch-Street, where the "Pennsylvania Chronicle" was published, and after Mr. Goddard removed to Baltimore early in 1774, Mr. Mecom and his family left Philadelphia and went to Burlington in New Jersey, where he worked in the printing office of Isaac Collins. The last we hear of him is in a letter to Franklin, from J. M. Lawrence and William Smith, Burlington, July 19, 1776, informing him that Mrs. Mecom's husband is at times very dangerous, being often deprived of his reason, and asking Franklin's help in placing him in the hospital at Philadelphia, or in confining him in some other way.

We return now to the story of the old Antigua printing press. A year or more after it had been put in storage, Mr. Parker wrote to Dr. Franklin, from Woodbridge, March 28, 1765, as follows:

Samuel Smith, Esqr of Burlington, has some years since been composing a History of New Jersey:—I had told him seven years ago, if he had it printed by me, I would go to Burlington to do it:—A few Weeks ago, he claim'd my Promise, and as I have not much Work here, and I was otherwise strongly invited thither, upon deliberating of it,—I apprehended, that the Printing Materials of Ben: Mecom's which were in my Store Room in New York, if you wanted them for any

Cause, they would be handier for you at Burlington, than at N York, but that, if not, I would take them myself and pay you for them:—They are indeed valued in B. Mecom's Book, as they cost new, whereas they are not quite so: However. I apprehended, we should not differ about them; and if you did not chuse to let me have them, I could but allow you for the little Use I might make of them till called for: I went to New York, and this Day Week shipp'd them on board of a sloop to go round by Water to Philadelphia, in order that they might not be bruised by Land Carriage:—I hope they will get there safe tho' this Month is a precarious Season, but as its but a little Way, I flatter myself they will be safe:— . . . I shall take two or three of my Boys with me, and leave my Wife here, as also my Son [Samuel F. Parker] with this Printing-Office, if happily he may get or do as much Work as will maintain him. It is probable I shall finish in 5 or 6 Months, or perhaps sooner, unless more Work than I expect should offer; and if any such Encouragement should offer, it is not improbable but I may remove thither entirely." (William Nelson in *Am. Ant. Soc. Proc.*, April, 1911, pp. 24-25.)

In a postscript dated April 2, he added that the printing materials had arrived safely at Burlington, and that he would set off for that place as soon as the condition of the roads would permit.

The next letter from Parker to Franklin about this undertaking, quoted by Mr. Nelson, was dated from Burlington, April 25, 1765, and informed him that he had begun already to print there, as "By a small Pamphlet, you will receive from the Gov'r [William Franklin] you will perceive it done:—I am just now finishing it." This referred probably to Parker's reprint of the Stamp Act. He goes on to say: "We had some Design of doing a Newspaper here, but the News of the Killing Stamp, has struck a deadly Blow to all my Hopes on that Head." Writing again on June 14th, about the printing materials, he says:

I had Thought of purchasing them: But being distressed on every Quarter, and the fatal Black-Act lately passed, must render printing of very little Consequence; so that I think I cannot afford to purchase them, unless they should come much cheaper than the Charge of them to Mecom;—and indeed they are in many Things the Worse for wear.—I had rather

pay for the Use of them, in printing this Book [Smith's History], but as to any Thing of this Matter, I hope we shall not differ:—for they will be handier to dispose of at your Pleasure, here than at New York.

The printing of Smith's History was begun at Burlington in May or June, and finished before December 20th, 1765, on which date Parker wrote to Franklin, asking, "What I shall do with the Press and Materials I have here late Benj. Mecom's, as I will deliver them to your Order at Philadelphia. I have finished the Book of S. Smith's, and my Hands are all gone to New-York and Woodbridge, where I should have followed, but for my illness." Writing next from Philadelphia, February 3d, 1766, during Franklin's absence from home, he says: "I wish I may hear from you, before the End of this Month, where I am to put the Printing Materials of B. Mecom's that are now at Burlington:—I have no body there at Work, all my Boys having gone to New York & Woodbridge. And indeed, I have no work there for them to do, if they were there." After returning to Burlington, he wrote from that place, on February 10th: "I shall send down B. Mecom's Printing Office to Philadelphia, immediately, as Mrs. Franklin says she will see Care taken of it." A final postscript, dated February 20th, closes with the words: "All Mecom's Materials are sent down to Philadelphia. Adieu."

With these last two extracts from the Parker-Franklin correspondence, our record of the old Antigua printing press comes to an end. They were not included in Mr. Ford's selection, and were overlooked by Mr. Nelson, who was mistaken in saying that "Parker continued his outfit at Burlington until his death, July 2, 1770, in his fifty-sixth year."

The following list of publications must be far from complete, but it is the best that could be done in the limited time for its preparation.

PRINTED IN ANTIGUA

1748-1751

1. The Antigua Gazette. From September, 1748, to September, 1751, or later.

Antigua: Printed by Thomas Smith, at St. John's.

Folio.

Issued weekly; no copy known. Extracts from it were printed in the "Pennsylvania Gazette," during the above mentioned years, showing that the paper was issued regularly on Friday of each week.

1749

2. Occasional Poems. [Two lines in Latin from Horace.]

Antigua: Printed by T. Smith, for the Author. MDCCXLIX.

Quarto, pp. (4), 9-92.

By Rev. William Shervington, whose name is at the foot of the dedication. Copies: British Museum; Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach. The next title is a reprint of one of the poems in the above volume.

The Antigonian and Bostonian Beauties; A Poem. Occasion'd by seeing the Assembly, at St. John's Antigua, on Thursday the 7th of July, and afterwards at Boston, in King-street.

——— on she came;
Grace was in all her Steps, Heav'n in her Eye;
In ev'ry Gesture Dignity and Love.

MILTON.

By W. S. A. B.

Boston: Printed and Sold by D. Fowle in Queen-street.
[1751?]

Small quarto, pp. 8; Some Thoughts from Seneca, pp. 8.

The letters "W. S." on the title stand for William Shervington, and not for William Shirley as in Evans's "American Bibliography" under 1754. The poem in this book is the same as in the "Occasional Poems" of 1749, without additions; the only reference to Boston and King-street being on the title-page. Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Brown University, in the Harris collection of American poetry; British Museum.

1750

3. *Medulla Medicinæ Universæ: Or, A New Compendious Dispensatory.* Wherein is contain'd, in a direct summary Way, all that is essentially necessary to answer every medicinal Intention of Cure. Compiled at the Command of His Royal Highness the Duke, for the Use of the Military Hospital Abroad. By the King's Physicians and Surgeons, the Surgeon General, and the Apothecary General of the Army. With a Comment subjoin'd to each Prescription, shewing how to adapt it to particular Cases: With proper Indexes, referring to the various Diseases incident to the human Body, and their respective Cures. The Fourth Edition: Revised, corrected, and (in regard to the Comment) considerably augmented: Together with an additional Appendix, and some practical Suggestions on the Use and Abuse of Bleeding.

[Antigua: Printed by Thomas Smith. 1750.]

Octavo.

Advertised in the "Pennsylvania Gazette," November 1, 1750, and also on Dec. 11 and 25, as "Lately published at Antigua, and to be sold at the Post-Office, Philadelphia (Price 2 s.)" No copy located. It was edited by Dr. John Theobald. First edition, London, 1747; second edition, 1748; third edition, 1749; fourth edition, with a large additional appendix, London, 1752; fifth edition, 1756; sixth edition, 1761; seventh edition, 1771.

1752-1756

4. *The Antigua Gazette.* From November, 1752, to June, 1756, or later.

Antigua: Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at St. John's.

Folio.

Issued weekly on Fridays until January, 1755; and twice a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays from February, 1755, to June 26, 1756, or later, according to the dated extracts printed in the "Pennsylvania Gazette." For description of the only copy located, see under 1755.

1754

5. A Sermon preached before the Free and Accepted Masons, in the Town of St. John's, Antigua, on the 24th June, 1754. By the Rev. Mr. Shervington (?).

Antigua: Printed by Benjamin Mecom. 1754.

Octavo.

The first part of the title is copied from the advertisement in the "Antigua Gazette" of April 12, 1755.

1755

6. April 12, 1755. [Saturday.] Number 130. The Antigua Gazette. Containing the Freshest Advices, With Politics & Entertainment. What RIGHT, what TRUE, what FIT we justly call, Let This be all My Care,—for This is ALL.—Pope. [Colophon on fourth page:]

Antigua: Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the Old Printing-Office on Kerby's Wharff, in St. John's.

Folio, pp. (4).

The first page is filled with an article, "Of the Use, Abuse, and Liberty of the Press, with a little salutary Advice," signed Reflector. Then comes, "Of the Waste of Life," unsigned; extracts from the "Barbados Gazette," the "Tattler," and the "Spectator"; news from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Annapolis, and Williamsburg in Virginia; and about three columns of advertisements. The last column is "A Catalogue of sundry Grievances, which require immediate Redress in New York," written in humorous style.

Copy: American Antiquarian Society.

PRINTED IN BOSTON

1757

7. The New-England Primer Further improved with various Additions For the more easy attaining the true Reading of English. To which is added, The Assembly of Divines Catechism.

Boston: Printed for the Booksellers. 1757.

Thirty-twomo.

Title, excepting date, copied from the 1754 edition described by Charles F. Heartman, no. 12. It was printed by Zechariah Fowle, with the help of his apprentice Isaiah Thomas; and B. Mecom assisted in the impression, "on condition that he might print a certain number for himself." The edition was 10,000 copies. No copy has been found.

8. God's Call to His People;—shewing their Duty and Safety, in Days of general Calamity. Two Sermons Preached at Plymouth, June 30, 1757. Being a Day of General Humiliation, Occasioned By the Drought and War. By John Cotton (of Plymouth) A.M. [Verses from Revelation vii-3, and Ezekiel ix-6.]

Boston, in New-England, Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, opposite to the Old Brick Meeting-House in Cornhill, where PRINTING-WORK is done Cheap. 1757.

Octavo, pp. 43. A-E in fours, F in two.

Copies: Boston Athenæum; John Carter Brown Library; New York Historical Society.

1758

9. Father Abraham's Speech to a great Number of People, at a Vendue of Merchant-Goods; introduced to the Publick by Poor Richard, a famous Pennsylvania Conjuror, and Almanack-Maker, in Answer to the following Questions, Pray, Father Abraham, what think you of the Times? Won't these heavy Taxes quite ruin the Country? How shall we be ever able to pay them? What would you advise us to? To which are added, Seven curious Pieces of Writing, viz. 1. The welcome Guinea—A Poem. 2. Consolation for the Homely. 3. A grand Compliment to the Ladies. 4. The two Sinners, the Pope, and the Devil: A Poetical Tale. 5. An infallible Cure for Love. 6. An Old Song, wrote by one of our first New-England Planters, on their Management in those good old Times. To the Tune of A Cobler there was, &c. 7. Poor Richard's Description of his Country Wife Joan, in a Song to the Tune of The Hounds are all out, &c.

Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at the New-Printing-Office opposite to the Old-Brick-Meeting, near the Court-House, in Boston. (Price Six Coppers.) Note. Very good Allowance to those who take them by the Hundred or Dozen, to sell again. [1758.]

Octavo.

First separate edition of the Proverbs of Poor Richard, not mentioned in Ford's Bibliography, or by any other bibliographer. It was advertised as "This Day Published," in the "Boston News-Letter," No. 2907, for

Thursday, March 30, 1758; repeated on April 7 and 13. Also in the "Boston Gazette, and Country Journal," No. 157, for Monday, April 3, 1758; repeated on April 10 and 17.

This collection was selected by Doctor Franklin from his earlier almanacs, run into a continuous narrative in the style of a speech, dated at the end July 7, 1757, and in that form published first in Poor Richard's "Almanack" for 1758. It was reprinted a second time by Mecom in 1760, under the same title, but without the "curious Pieces," and again at New Haven in 1764; also by T. & S. Green at New Haven in 1767. No copy of the first edition has been located; but the edition printed at Dedham by H. Mann in 1807 must have been copied from it, because it has in the title the words, "To which are added, Several curious Pieces of Writing." See also the reference to it in the imprint of the next title.

10. Gallic Perfidy: A Poem. By John Maylem—Philobellum. [Picture of an Indian with bow and arrow.]

Boston: New England: Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at The New Printing-Office, July 13, 1758.—Where may be had that noted little Book, called Father Abraham's SPEECH.

Small octavo, pp. 15. A-B in fours.

One hundred and ninety-eight lines, describing the attack and capture of Fort William Henry on Lake George, by the French and Indians under General Montcalm, in August 1757; the taking captive of the author by the Indians, and their cruelty to the prisoners; and finally of the author's redemption at Montreal. Dated at the end March 10, 1758. It was advertised as "This Day Published," in the "Boston Gazette, and Country Journal," No. 172, for Monday, July 17, 1758, "Price four Pence." Advertisement repeated on July 24 and August 14.

Copies American Antiquarian Society; Boston Athenæum; Massachusetts Historical Society; New York Public Library.

11. Number I. The New-England Magazine For August 1758. To be continued Monthly, Price Eight Pence. Prodesse & Delectare [Vignette of hand holding flowers] E Pluribus Unum. By Urbanus Filter.

Kind Reader,—Pray, what would you have me do
If, out of Twenty, I should please but Two?
One like's the Turkey's Wing, and one the Leg.
The Vulgar *boil* (the Learned *roast*) an Egg.

Boston: Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at The New Printing-Office, near the Court-House. [1758.]

Twelvemo, pp. 60.

Title from a facsimile in Holman S. Hall's article, "The First New England Magazine," in the number for January, 1906, of the "New England Magazine," vol. 33, pp. 521-525. It was first advertised in the "Boston News-Letter" for Thursday, August 31, 1758, as "This Day Published." The title there given differs a little from the one above, also having a different verse, and is perhaps the outside or cover title. It is worded as follows:

"The New England Magazine Of Knowledge and Pleasure. To be continued Monthly. Prodesse & Delectare [Vignette of hand holding flowers] E Pluribus Unum—

Alluring Profit with Delight we blend;
One out of Many, to the Public send.

By Urbanus Filter. Boston: Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at The New Printing-Office, near the Court-House. [Price Eight Pence.]"

The advertisement gives a full list of the contents, which are also summarized in Mr. Hall's article, the latter including facsimiles of the pages containing the editor's address "To the honourable Republic of Letters, in New England," and the "chief Design of the Magazine." Among the news items is a notice of the death of Thomas Fleet, the printer, and the epitaph on the Tomb Stone of Pennsylvania Marble, "lately erected in the Burial-Place opposite the Manufactory House, in Boston," by Benjamin Franklin:

"JOSIAH FRANKLIN
AND
ABIAH, HIS WIFE
LIE HERE INTERRED
THEY LIVED LOVINGLY TOGETHER IN WEDLOCK
FIFTY-FIVE YEARS
* * * * *
AND BROUGHT UP THIRTEEN CHILDREN AND
SEVEN GRAND-CHILDREN
* * * * *
THEIR YOUNGEST SON
IN FILLIAL REGARD TO THEIR MEMORY
PLACES THIS STONE
J. F. BORN 1655 DIED 1744
A. F. BORN 1667 DIED 1752."

Copies: Boston Public Library, two, one being in the John A. Lewis collection.

12. The New-England Magazine, Of Knowledge and Pleasure. Number 2. . . .

Boston: Printed and sold by Benjamin Mecom, at the New-Printing-Office, near the Town-House. [October, 1758.]

Twelvemo.

Title from the advertisements in the "Boston News-Letter" of Thursday, October 26, 1758, and in the "Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal" of Monday, October 30, 1758, where it was announced as "This Day Published." It was described as containing "Twenty-three Pieces of Writing, in Prose and Verse, collected from various Authors; among which are the famous Oliver Cromwel's private Life, his Sickness, Death and Character.—Thirty-nine Articles of a new and uncommon Creed.—An impudent Burlesque. A Relation of the superstitious Austerities and extraordinary Behaviour of the Abbé de Paris, &c." The contents are also described in Mr. Hall's article in the "New England Magazine" for January, 1906. The last piece is an effusion to Mira, a song by the author of a poem entitled, "The Antigonian Beauties," some time ago applied to an assembly of Bostonian Beauties.

Copies: Boston Public Library; Library of Congress. For the third number see under 1759.

13. The New-England Psalter; or, Psalms of David: with the Proverbs of Solomon, and Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

Boston: Printed for the Booksellers. 1758.

Twelvemo.

Title copied from the 1761 edition, and the account in Thomas's "History of Printing," of the edition printed by Benjamin Mecom. Its publication was not advertised in the newspapers.

14. The New-England Psalter; or, Psalms of David: with the Proverbs of Solomon, and Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

Boston: S. Kneeland & T. Green. 1758.

Twelvemo.

Title from the catalogue of a sale at Libbie's in Boston, November 11 and 12, 1908, no. 1085. Probably of the edition printed by Benjamin Mecom for the Booksellers.

15. John Gordon's Mathematical Traverse Table, &c.

Printed in the Year 1758, and Sold by Mr. W. Dunlap, in Philadelphia, Mr. G. Noel, in New-York, Mr. B. Mecom, in Boston, and by the Author.

Small twelvemo, pp. (66), and 2 plates.

Title from Hildeburn's "Issues of the Press in Pennsylvania," no. 1586. It was announced in the "Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal," for Monday, October 9, 1758, as "Just Published, And ready to be delivered to the Subscribers and others, By Benjamin Mecom,¹ At the New-Printing-Office, in Boston; By Mr. Daniel Fowle, Printer in Portsmouth; Mr. Holt, Post-Master in New-Haven; Capt. Gibbs in Newport; Messi. Parker and Weyman, and Mr. Hugh Gaine, Printers in New-York; Mr.

¹Mis spelled Mecom in the New York Public Library file.

Dunlap, at the Post-Office in Philadelphia; and by the Author. (Price One Mill'd Dollar, stitch'd.)" The book was without doubt printed in Philadelphia; and the advertisement, which fills the whole first column on the front page, must have been prepared by the author, and inserted at his expense.

Copies: American Philosophical Society; Massachusetts Historical Society.

1759

16. Poor Joseph's Almanack & Ephemeris; for the Year 1759. Containing (besides the common Calculations) the Courts, Roads, fixed and moveable Days observed by the Church, useful Hints, necessary Memorandums, entertaining Remarks, &c. &c.

Boston: Printed by Benjamin Mecom, and Sold at his Shop under the new Printing-Office, over against the Old Brick Meeting, near the Town-House, on Cornhill. [Price 2 Pista-reens per Dozen, & 5 Coppers single.]

Twelvemo, pp. (24), unpagged.

Title from the advertisement in the "Boston News-Letter" of Thursday, December 21, and Thursday, December 28, 1758, where the two line motto is given:

"Nature well-known no Prodigies remain;
Comets are regular, Eclipses plain."

The author was Joseph Steward. The only copy located by Dr. Nichols is in Harvard College Library.

17. The New-England Magazine, No. 3.

Boston: Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at his Shop under the New Printing-Office, near the Court-House. (Price Eight Pence.) [March, 1759.]

Twelvemo.

Title from the "Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal," for Monday, March 19, 1759, where it is advertised as "This Day Published," and "Containing thirty Pieces of Writing, in Prose and Verse, beginning with the History of Tom Varien, and ending with the Sot's Paradise. By various Authors."

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Library of Congress; Massachusetts Historical Society.

18. Britain's Remembrancer. Being Some Thoughts on the proper Improvement of the present juncture. The Character

of this Age and Nation. A brief View, from History, of the Effects of the Vices which now prevail in Britain, upon the greatest Empires and States of former Times. Remarkable Deliverances this Nation has had in the most imminent Dangers: with suitable Reflections. Some Hints, shewing what is in the Power of the several Ranks of People, and of every Individual in Britain, to do towards securing the State from all its Enemies. The Seventh Edition.

London, Printed: Re-printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, in Boston. 1759.

Twelvemo, pp. 51, (1).

An advertisement on the last page announces, as just published, Watts' "Christian Discipline," and Jones' "Religious Remembrancer." This book appeared without the author's name, but according to the Dictionary of National Biography was by James Burgh, a political writer, who had the first edition printed at London in 1746. Mecom's reprint was advertised, in the "Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal," for Monday, July 30, 1759, with Watts's "Christian Discipline," and Jones's "Religious Remembrancer," as "This Day Published," price 7s.6d. Old Tenor.

Copies: Henry E. Huntington Library; John Carter Brown Library; Library of Congress; Massachusetts Historical Society.

19. The Religious Remembrancer: being A Serious Address To the Christian World, On the Great Subjects of Real and Practical Religion. By the Reverend Mr. Jones. [Quotation from Titus ii.11-14.] Courteous Reader, If these weighty considerations do not seem (to you) to be worth the small Price put on them, for your Soul's Good, pray keep them clean, and return them when called for.

Re-printed at Boston in New-England, from the London Edition. 1759. Price Four-pence single, Three Shillings per Dozen, and Twenty-four Shillings by the Hundred, to those who buy them to give away.

Twelvemo.

Title from an incomplete copy. That it was printed by Benjamin Mecom is proved by his advertisement in the "Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal," for Monday, July 30, 1759, where the price was given as 4 d. single, 3 s. per Dozen, and 24 s. by the Hundred, to those who buy them to give away.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society, lacking all after page 8; Boston Public Library, in the Prince collection, pp. 32, imperfect.

20. Christian Discipline; or the Character of a polite young Gentleman; by which the proper Degrees of Liberty and Restraint, in the Education of a Son, are beautifully illustrated, in the Examples of Agathus and Eugenio. By Dr. Isaac Watts.

Boston: Re-printed by B. Mecom. [1759.]

Twelvemo, pp. 26, (2).

Title from the advertisement in the "Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal," for Monday, July 30, 1759, where it is announced as "This Day Published, And to be Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at his Shop under the New-Printing-Office, near the Court-House. [Price Half a Pistereen.]" The imprint and number of pages are copied from Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 8515.

Copy: American Antiquarian Society.

21. Gospel-Ministers to preach Christ to their People; together with the Manner and End of their doing it, briefly considered in A Sermon Preached at Marshfield, Sept. 5, 1759. When The Reverend Mr. Thomas Brown was ordained Pastor of the First Church there. By John Cushing, A.M. Pastor of the Second Church in Boxford. To which is added The Charge, by the Rev. Mr. Appleton. Also, The Right Hand of Fellowship, by the Rev. Mr. Gay. . . .

Boston: Printed by B. Mecom. 1759..

Octavo, pp. 36, vi, vi.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Athenæum; John Carter Brown Library; New York Public Library.

22. The Two Mothers; or The History of Antigone and Phronissa; Shewing how Antigone laughed at her good old Grandmother, and married her Daughters, before Sixteen to a laced Coat and a fashionable Wig,—and how the wiser Phronissa instructed her Daughters in Reading, Dressing, Singing, Dancing, Visiting, &c. in order to make them happy and useful in the rising Age.

Boston: Printed and to be Sold at the New Printing-Office in Cornhill. (Price four Coppers.) [1759.]

Twelvemo.

Advertised in the "Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal," for Monday, September 24, 1759, as "This Day Published." No copy located.

1760

23. *The Office Duties, and Qualifications of a Watchman of Israel, considered and illustrated in A Sermon Preached at The Ordination of the Reverend Mr. Joseph Wheeler, In Harvard, December 12, 1759.* By Samuel Woodward, A.M. Pastor of the Church in Weston.

Boston: Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at the New-Printing-Office, near the Town-House. M, DCC, LX.

Octavo, pp. 31.

Advertised in the "Boston News-Letter Extraordinary," for Thursday, February 7, 1760, as "This Day Published."

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Athenæum; Harvard College; Henry E. Huntington Library; John Carter Brown Library.

24. *The Grounds and Rules of Musick explained; or, an Introduction to the Art of Singing by Note.* Fitted to the meanest Capacities. By Thomas Walter, M.A. Recommended by several Ministers.

Boston: Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office near the Town-House, for Thomas Johnston, in Brattle-Street. [1760.]

Oblong twelvemo, pp. (2), iv, 25, engraved music 20.

Advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Friday, March 21, 1760, as "This Day Published," and "With Eight Tunes more than usual."

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Massachusetts Historical Society.

25. *A Seasonable and earnest Address to the Citizens of London, Soon after the Dreadful Fire which consumed the greatest Part of that famous Metropolis, in the Year 1666.* By that Reverend and faithful Minister, Mr. James Janeway. To which is added, Dr. Smollett's Account of the said Conflagration, and the imputed Causes thereof. Taken from his History of England. Together with a particular Relation of the Great Fire of Boston, in New-England; which broke out at the Brazen-Head, in Cornhill, about two o'clock in the morning, on March 20, 1760.

Sold by Benjamin Mecom at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House, in Boston. [1760.]

Twelvemo, pp. 55.

Advertised in the "Boston Gazette, and Country Journal," for Monday, April 7, 1760, as "This Day Publish'd, . . . Price Eight Pence, L. M." According to the advertisement, an account of the Boston Fire of 1711 is also included.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society (imperfect); Boston Public Library; Boston Athenæum; Yale College Library.

26. *Simplicity and Godly sincerity, in a Christian Minister, the sure way to Happiness. A Sermon preached before the Annual Convention of Ministers, in Boston, N. E. May 29, 1760. By William Balch . . .*

Boston, N. E. Printed by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. M, DCC, LX.

Octavo, pp. 40.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Athenæum; Boston Public Library; John Carter Brown Library.

27. *The Interest of Great Britain considered with Regard to Her Colonies And the Acquisitions of Canada and Guada-loupe. To which are added, Observations concerning the In-crease of Mankind, Peopling of Countries, &c.* [As the very ingenious, useful, and worthy Author of this Pamphlet [B———n F———n, LL. D.] is well-known and much esteemed by the principal Gentlemen in England and America; and seeing that his other Works have been received with uni-versal Applause; the present Production needs no further Recommendation to a generous, a free, an intelligent and publick-spirited People. London, Printed. MDCCLX.

Boston: Reprinted, by B. Mecom, and Sold at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1760. [Price One Shilling.]

Octavo, pp. 59, (5). A-H in fours.

Advertised in the "Boston Gazette, and Country Journal," for Monday, September 1, 1760, as "This Day Published."

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; John Carter Brown Library; New York Public Library.

28. *The Interest of Great Britain considered with Regard to Her Colonies And the Acquisitions of Canada and Guada-loupe. . . . The Second Boston-Edition. . . .*

London, Printed M, DCC, LX. Boston, N. E. Reprinted and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1760.

Octavo, pp. 64.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Henry E. Huntington Library; John Carter Brown Library.

29. Father Abraham's Speech To a great Number of People, at a Vendue of Merchant-Goods; Introduced to The Publick By Poor Richard, (A famous Pennsylvanian Conjurer and Almanack-Maker) In Answer to the following Questions. Pray, Father Abraham, what think you of the Times? Won't these heavy Taxes quite ruin the Country? How shall we be ever able to pay them? What would you advise us to?

Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House, in Boston. [1760.]

Small octavo, pp. 16. Folded frontispiece.

Second edition of the "Speech." On the verso of the title is an advertisement beginning:

"This famous Speech most certainly does hit
The happy Point where Wisdom joins with Wit.

At the first Appearance of this humorous and instructive Production several Gentlemen of approved Taste were struck with the Design and Beauty of it, and therefore desired to know the Parent's Name.—Father Abraham's Speech is the comely Off-spring of that Frank lyn-cean Genius who is the Author of a Pamphlet intituled *The Interest of Great Britain considered*; and of the following Quotations from the *Additions to said Pamphlet*," etc.

The quotations which follow on the same page, appear in Mecom's edition of "*The Interest*" on pp. 55 and 56, showing the probability that the "Speech" was published in September, 1760, or not long after.

The folded frontispiece represents "Father Abraham in his Study," with the date 1760 in the upper corner. On either side and below are lines of verse addressed to him. At the bottom is the imprint, Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, (near the Town-House, in Boston) where Books are Sold, and Printing-Work done, Cheap.

Copies, both with the frontispiece: Boston Public Library (Brinley 3208); New York Public Library (Brinley 3207).

30. *The Rudiments of Latin Prosody: with A Dissertation on Letters, and The Principles of Harmony, in Poetic and*

Prosaic Composition. Collected from some of the Best Writers. [Three lines in Latin from Horace.]

Boston, N.E. Printed and Sold by Benj. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. M, DCC, LX. [Second title:] A Dissertation on Letters, and The Principles of Harmony, in Poetic and Prosaic Composition. Collected from some of the Best Writers. [Two lines from Quintilian.] Printed by B. Mecom. 1760.

Twelvemo, two parts in one volume, pp. 60 and 72. Some copies are described with a slip of errata.

The author was James Otis. It was advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, October 16, 1760, as "This Day Published."

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Public Library; New York Public Library.

31. [Cuts.] A New Th[anksgiving] Song Revised, Enlarged and Adapted [to] The Glorious Conquest of Canada. Fitted to a Live Tune, called The Grenadiers March, proper for the Fifes and Drums.

[Sold at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House, in Boston.]

Broadside.

Title from W. C. Ford's "Massachusetts Broad-sides," no. 1225.

Copy: American Antiquarian Society.

32. All Canada in the Hands of the English: or, An Authentick Journal Of the Proceedings of the Army, under General Amherst, From the Time it embarked at Oswego, on the 10th of August (1760) to the Happy Reduction of Montreal, The 8th of September following: Together with several other Particulars relating to Canada. [Six lines in verse.]

Boston: Printed and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. [1760.]

Octavo, pp. 17, (3). [A] in one, B in six.

Copies: Boston Athenæum; New York Historical Society.

33. A Sermon Preached October 9, 1760. Being a Day of Public Thanksgiving On Occasion of The Reduction of Montreal and The entire Conquest of Canada, By the Troops of

His Britannic Majesty, Under the Command of General Amherst. By Samuel Woodward, A.M. Pastor of the Church in Weston.

Boston: Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. [1760.]

Octavo, pp. 30, and one blank leaf. A-D in fours. With half title.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; New York Historical Society.

34. A Sermon Preached at the West Parish in Lancaster, October 9, 1760. On The General Thanksgiving for The Reduction of Montreal and Total Conquest of Canada. Containing A brief Account of the War, from the Year 1755;— and a Review of the first Settlement and several Expeditions against (with some of the Reasons for holding) Canada. By John Mellen, Pastor of the Second Church in Lancaster. . . .

Boston: Printed and Sold by B. Mecom. [1760.]

Octavo, pp. 46, (1). A-F in fours.

The last page contains "The Names of the Men lost by the War, out of this Parish, since 1755. [Nineteen names.] The four first were slain in the Morning—Action at Lake George, Sept. 8, 1755," etc. Advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, November 20, 1760, as "This Day Published."

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; New York Public Library.

35. A Letter Addressed to Two Great Men, on the Prospect of Peace; And on the Terms necessary to be insisted upon in the Negotiation. [Quotations from Cicero and Shakespeare.] London, Printed. MDCCLX.

Boston: Reprinted, by B. Mecom, and Sold at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1760.

Octavo, pp. (4), 55, (1).

On the half-title is the following: "N. B. Who was the Composer of this very reputable Pamphlet, is perhaps, absolutely uncertain with every Body, but the excellent Author of it: He says 'I am an anonymous Writer, and hope never to be known.'—The Two Great Men are supposed to be the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Pitt." The last page contains "A Short Speech and Character of Mr. Pitt, extracted from Smollett's History."

The pamphlet was advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, December 18, 1760, as "This Day Published . . . (Price One

Pistareen.)" The authorship is attributed to John Douglas, Bishop of Salisbury.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; John Carter Brown Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; New York Public Library.

36. *Heaven upon Earth; or, the Best Friend in the Worst Times.* Delivered in several Sermons. By James Janeway. From the Third Edition, corrected. [Woodcut.]

Boston: Reprinted by Z. Fowle & S. Draper, for B. Mecom. 1760.

Octavo, pp. 260.

Title from the Brinley Catalogue, no. 7577; Samuel F. Haven's Catalogue, p. 548; and Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 8625.

Copy: Boston Athenæum. The American Antiquarian Society has a copy "Re-printed and Sold by Z. Fowle and S. Draper, at their Printing-Office in Marlborough-street."

37. *Rules relating to Success in Trade, &c.* By Richard Lucas. Taken from his *Enquiry after Happiness.*

Boston: Printed by Benj. Mecom. [1760.]

Octavo, pp. 20.

Title from the catalogue of the Prince Library; Samuel F. Haven's Catalogue, p. 549; and Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 8643.

Copy: Boston Public Library.

38. *Sabbath-Profanity (The most Crying Sin of New-England) Testified against By Way of Dialogue Between A dying Man and his Friend. With a Song for Sabbath-Breakers, and a Song for Sleepers at Meeting, and two other pleasant Songs. All in Verse.* By Francis Worcester, (Of Hollis) a Labourer in Christ's Vineyard. Written by him when confined in Weakness, and in the 60th Year of his Age . . .

Boston, N. E. Printed and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1760.

Sixteenmo, pp. 40.

Title from a half-tone facsimile in the "Illustrated Catalogue of Nuggets of American History," sold by the American Art Association, November 19 and 20, 1917, no. 281.

Copy: Library of Congress (Report for 1924, p. 30).

39. *Lord Anson's Voyage round The World; Performed in the Years 1740, 41, 42, 43, and 44. Containing A Series of*

the most Entertaining and Surprizing Adventures; and An Account of the Inhabitants, Manners, and Customs, of several remote Countries and Nations. By W. H. Dilworth, A.M.

Boston, N.E. Re-printed and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. M, DCC, LX. Small octavo, pp. 1-64, 73-104. A-M in fours.

Pages 65-72 were passed over in the pagination by mistake, but nothing is lacking in the narrative.

Copies: Connecticut Historical Society; New York Public Library.

40. Directions Concerning Inoculation for the Small-Pox. Boston: Printed by Benjamin Mecom. 1760.

Title from Samuel F. Haven's Catalogue, p. 550, under Small Pox; and from an advertisement by Mecom in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, March 5, 1761, stating that "He has also lately printed some much approved Directions concerning the Small-Pox. Price 6 Coppers."

1761

41. Remarks on the Letter addressed to Two Great Men. In a Letter to the Author of that Piece. [Four lines from Horace.] London: P[r]inted in the Year MDCCLX.

Boston: Re-printed and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. [1761.]

Octavo, pp. 40, including half-title and title.

The half-title contains the following: "N. B. It is apprehended the Republication of these Remarks may be pleasing to those Gentlemen who have been so well entertained with Mr. F———n's Answer thereto. The Remarker's Manner is elegant, and his Arguments plausible; but we are taught to believe that it would be contrary to the Interest and Happiness of Great-Britain, and Her Colonies, if his Sentiments should prevail."

The authorship is usually attributed to the Hon. Charles Townshend. This reprint was advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, January 22, 1761, as "This Day Published . . . (Price Seven Shillings old Tenor.)"

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Harvard College Library; New York Public Library.

42. The Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament, And applied to the Christian State and Worship. By Isaac Watts, D.D.

Boston. 1761.

An advertisement dated March 4th, 1761, printed in the issues of the "Boston News-Letter" for March 5th and 12th, stated that "Good Wages & Accommodation for A Journeyman-Printer, May be had of Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House in Boston.—He must understand both Press and Case.—An unsteady Hand cannot reasonably expect to meet with constant Encouragement.—The Time of Trial to commence on the 13th Day of April next."

"[S]aid Mecom has just finished a neat Edition of Watts's Psalms, which he will sell cheap for Cash.—He has also lately printed some much approved Directions concerning the Small-Pox. Price 6 Coppers."

The only Boston edition of Watts's Psalms of this date recorded by Haven, Evans, and the Brinley catalogue, is "The Twenty-third Edition," Boston: Reprinted and Sold by D. & J. Kneeland, 1761.

Twelvemo, pp. 304. It is possible that Mecom printed this edition for the Kneelands, as no copy has been found with his own name in the imprint.

43. A Sermon Preached Feb. 25, 1761. By A. Cumming, A.M. at his Instalment in the Pastoral Charge of the South Church, in Boston; Colleague with the Reverend Joseph Sewall, D.D. To which is added, The Charge, by the Rev. Dr. Sewall; and The Right Hand of Fellowship, By the Rev. Mr. Pemberton. Boston, N. E.

Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. M, DCC, LX, I.

Octavo, pp. 58. A-G in fours, H in one.

Advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, April 16, 1761, as "This Day Published."

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Athenæum; Boston Public Library; Henry E. Huntington Library; John Carter Brown Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; New York Public Library.

44. Ministers of Christ freed from Blood-Guiltiness, by dispensing all the Counsels of God. A Farewel-Sermon, Preached at Plainfield, May 3, 1761. Occasioned by the Long Differences That have there subsisted. Published at the Desire of many that heard it. By David S. Rowland, A.M. . . .

Boston: Printed by Benjamin Mecom at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. [1761.]

Octavo, pp. 43.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Public Library; John Carter Brown Library.

45. An Essay on the Agitations of the Sea, and Some other Remarkables attending the Earthquakes Of the Year M, DCC, L, V. To which are added, Some Thoughts on the Causes of Earthquakes. Written in the Year 1756.

Boston: Printed and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1761.

Twelvemo, pp. 40. A-E in fours.

Advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for July 23, 1761, as "This Day Published, And Sold by Benjamin Mecom . . . (also by Green and Russell, in Queen-Street.) . . . A few are printed on a very fine Paper, neatly covered and cut, Price 6 s. Old Tenor: Coarser Paper 5 s."

Copies: John Carter Brown Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; New York Public Library.

46. Heaven upon Earth. Or, the best Friend in the worst Times. Being an earnest Exhortation to get acquainted with God, as the only Way to real Good and Blessedness. By James Janeway. The Fourth Edition.

Boston. 1761.

Octavo.

Advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, August 20, 1761, as "This Day Published, (And Sold by Z. Fowle & S. Draper, at their Printing-Office in Marlborough-Street; & by B. Mecom at the New-Printing-Office, near the Town-House.) Price Six Shillings."

47. The New England Psalter: or, Psalms of David: with The Proverbs of Solomon, and Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Being an Introduction for the training up Children in the Reading of The Holy Scriptures.

Boston: Printed (by B. Mecom) for D. Henchman, J. Edwards, T. Leveret in Cornhill, M. Dennis near Scarlett's Wharf, J. Winter in Union-Street, S. Webb in Ann-Street, and J. Perkins near the Mill-Bridge. 1761.

Sixteenmo, pp. 158, The Nicene Creed (1). A-K in eights.

Copy: Boston Public Library (Sabin 66463).

48. The New-England Psalter: or, Psalms of David: with The Proverbs of Solomon, and Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Being an Introduction for the training up Children in the Reading of The Holy Scriptures.

Boston: Printed (by B. Mecom) for Green and Russel, in Queen-Street. 1761.

Sixteenmo, pp. 158, The Nicene Creed (1). A-K in eights.
Copy: New York Public Library (Ford collection).

49. A Curious and authentick Account of the Behaviour of Francis David Stern, who was convicted of the Murder of Mr. Mathews of London.

Boston: Re-printed by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1761.

Title from Samuel F. Haven's Catalogue, p. 555, under Stern; and Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 8829, under Crawford, A.; probably copied from an advertisement.

50. Lord Anson's Voyage round The World; Performed in the Years 1740, 41, 42, 43, and 44. Containing A Series of the most Entertaining and Surprizing Adventures; and An Account of the Inhabitants, Manners, and Customs, of several remote Countries and Nations. By W. H. Dilworth, A.M.

Boston, N.E. Re-printed and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. M, DCC, LXI. Small octavo, pp. 1-64, 73-104.

Copy: Henry E. Huntington Library (Eames collection).

51. A Letter from a Meeting of the Brethren called Quakers, to the Authors of the Pamphlet called Considerations on the German War, and of the several Pamphlets in answer to it.

Boston, N.E. Reprinted and Sold by B. Mecom at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1761.

Small octavo, pp. 8.

Title from Haven's Catalogue, p. 554; and Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 8860.

52. Ministers to be pray'd for, in their Office, by the People, &c. &c. A Sermon Preached at The Ordination Of The Reverend Mr. Ebenezer Sparhawk, to the Pastoral Care of the Church and Congregation in Narraganset, Number 6, since called Templeton, Nov. 18. 1761. By Joseph Buckminster

. . .

Boston: Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1762.

Octavo, pp. 30.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Henry E. Huntington Library; John Carter Brown Library; Massachusetts Historical Society.

1762

53. A List of entertaining and useful Books, for Sale by B. Mecom.

Advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, February 4, 1762, as follows: "Benjamin Mecom, at The New Printing-Office South of the Town-House, and opposite to the Old Brick Meeting, in Cornhill, Boston. Has in his Press

A List of entertaining and useful books, which he now offers to sell very cheap indeed, wholesale or retail.—Some of the said Books will be sold for less than they are commonly bought in London and Glasgow, and the Remainder at the first Cost and Charge of Importation.

☞ Next Monday said List will be delivered, gratis, to all Persons who desire it."

54. A Serious & Comical imaginary Dialogue between the famous Dr. Seth Hudson and the noted Joshua How, who were lately tried, in Boston, and convicted of counterfeiting and passing counterfeit Province-Treasurer's Notes:—containing (among a Variety of other serious and comical Informations) A Hint concerning the Grand Secret of Free-Masonry, & a Touch on TOM BELL.

Boston: Printed and Sold by Benjamin Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1762.

Title and imprint from the advertisement in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, April 1, 1762, where it is announced as "This Day Published . . . [Price 5 s. O. T. which is 8 d. L. M.]"

55. *Philosophic Solitude: or, the Choice of a Rural Life: a Poem.* By a Gentleman educated at Yale College. [Two lines from Virgil and Seneca.] New-York: Printed, MDCC-XLVII.

Boston: Reprinted and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1762.

Octavo, pp. xii, (2), 15-46.

Advertised in the "Boston News-Letter," for Thursday, September 16, 1762, as "This Day is Published . . . (Price One Pistereen) . . . by a Gentleman . . . the learned and ingenious William Livingston, Esq; of New York."

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; New York Public Library.

56. Advice to a Young Tradesman. Written by an Old One.

[Boston:] Sold at the New Printing-Office, by Benjamin Mecom. 1762.

Octavo, pp. 4.

By Dr. Franklin. Title from Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 9119.

57. Debtor and Creditor: Or, a Discourse on the following Words, Have Patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Never before published.

Boston: Printed and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. 1762.

Octavo, pp. 14.

Title from Samuel F. Haven's Catalogue, p. 558; and Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 9103.

Copies: Boston Public Library; Connecticut Historical Society.

58. A Present for Children. Containing Dr. Isaac Watts's Second Set of Catechisms, that on the Principles of Religion being interspersed with Dr. P. Doddridge's Paraphrase of it in Verse. Familiar Dialogues . . . All Dr. Watts's Moral Songs and a Cradle-Hymn . . . Prayers . . . With some other Dialogues . . .

Boston: Printed and Sold by B. Mecom. 1762.

Title from Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 9246, probably from an advertisement. It is also mentioned in Haven's Catalogue, p. 560.

59. The Ways of Pleasure and The Paths of Peace, Discovered in a Discourse, Which was written, on board A Ship at Sea. Never before published. [Six lines of verse.]

Boston: Printed and Sold by B. Mecom, at the New Printing-Office, near the Town-House. [1762.]

Twelvemo, pp. 14.

By Joseph Seccombe, but published without the author's name. Title from Sabin's Dictionary, no. 78702; and Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 9268.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Athenæum; Harvard College; Massachusetts Historical Society.

PRINTED IN NEW YORK

1763

60. July 11. 1763. Number 0. The New-York Pacquet, Containing Fresh News, Advertisements, and other Affairs, Foreign and Domestic.

Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the Modern Printing-Office, on Rotten-Row, Where Advertisements are taken in, Printing Work is carefully done, and all Persons may be regularly served with this Paper. [Colophon at the end:] New-York: Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the Modern Printing-Office, on Rotten-Row.

Folio, pp. (4), of three columns to a page.

This was a preliminary issue, and the numbered issue, according to Mr. Brigham, evidently appeared on July 18. Copies of the preliminary issue: New York Historical Society; New York Public Library. The only other issue known is No. 6, for August 22, 1763, belonging to the New York Historical Society. See Mr. Brigham's account in the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, October, 1917, p. 478.

61. Father Abraham's Speech.

[New York? Benjamin Mecom. 1763.]

Twelvemo.

Advertised in the "New-York Pacquet," for July 11, 1763, as follows: "Father Abraham's Speech to be sold by the Printer of this Monday-Paper. Price 6 d."

62. Animadversions, Critical and Candid, on Some Parts of Mr. Beach's late "Friendly Expostulation," in A Letter, From a Gentleman in New-England, to his Friend in Pennsylvania. [Two lines in Latin, from Terence.]

New-York: Printed by B. Mecom. 1763.

Twelvemo, pp. 22, Errata (1), verso blank. A-D, alternate fours and twos.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Athenæum; Connecticut Historical Society; New York Historical Society.

PRINTED IN BURLINGTON

1765

63. Anno Regni Georgii III. Regis Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ, Quinto. At the Parliament begun and holden at Westminster, the Nineteenth Day of May, Anno. Dom. 1761, in the First Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. And from thence continued by several Prorogations to the Tenth Day of January, 1765, being the Fourth Session of the Twelfth Parliament of Great-Britain.

London: Printed by Mark Basket, Printer to the King's most excellent Majesty: And, Re-printed by James Parker, in the Province of New-Jersey. [1765.]

Quarto, pp. 40.

This I suppose to be the piece referred to by Mr. Parker in his letter to Dr. Franklin, from Burlington, April 25, 1765, in which he says: "In my last to you, I acquainted you of my intention to remove the Press and printing Materials, late B. Mecom's to this Place, and of my having shipped them accordingly:—By a small Pamphlet, you will receive from the Govr you will perceive it done:—I am just now finishing it."

Copies: Library of Congress; C. F. Heartman's Catalogue of "Six Hundred Pamphlets," June, 1920.

64. The Last Speech, Confession, Birth, Parentage and Education, of John Grimes, John Fagan, and John Johnson, alias Johnson Cochran, who were executed at Gallows-Hill, in the City of Burlington, on Wednesday the 28th of August, 1765, for Burglary and Felony, committed in the County of Burlington . . .

[Burlington: Printed by James Parker? 1765.]

Folio, broadside.

Title from Evans's "American Bibliography," no. 10036, with imprint changed from Woodbridge.

Copy: Library Company of Philadelphia.

65. The History of the Colony of Nova-Cæsaria, or New-Jersey: Containing, an Account of its First Settlement, Progressive Improvements, the Original and Present Constitution, and other Events, to the Year 1721. With some Particulars since; and a Short View of its Present State. By Samuel Smith.

Burlington, in New-Jersey: Printed and Sold by James Parker: Sold also by David Hall, in Philadelphia. MDCC-LXV.

Octavo, pp. x, 573, Errata (1).

The edition consisted of six hundred copies. There are two varieties of the title-page, one with the imprint date punctuated M, DCC, LXV, and the other as in the title above. For other variations and fuller details, see Sabin's Dictionary, vol. 20, no. 83980.

Copies: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Public Library; Harvard College Library; Henry E. Huntington Library; John Carter Brown Library; Library of Congress; New York Public Library; etc.

66. The Answer of his Excellency William Franklin, Esq; Governor . . . of New Jersey, to the invidious Charges of the Proprietary Party, contained in a Libel, read by Mr. James Biddle, Clerk of the Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, on Saturday last, and afterwards published and industriously dispersed through the Province.

[Burlington: Printed by James Parker? 1765.]

Folio, 1 leaf.

Title from Hildeburn's "Issues of the Press in Pennsylvania," no. 2125, which is assigned to [Philadelphia: B. Franklin and D. Hall. 1765], with the note that it was printed also in the "Pennsylvania Gazette," Oct. 3, 1765.

67. Votes and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Province of New-Jersey. At a Session of General Assembly, began at Burlington, November 26, 1765, and continued till the 30th following. Being the Twelfth Session of the Twentieth Assembly of New-Jersey. [Royal Arms.]

Burlington, in New-Jersey: Printed by James Parker,
Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, for the Province.
M. DCC. LXV.

Folio, pp. 11.

Title from William Nelson's "First Report of the Public Record Commission," 1899, p. 44.

Copies: New Jersey State Library, Trenton; Public Record Office,
London.

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