

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

THE USE OF THE LIBRARY

IN accepting membership in the American Antiquarian Society in 1915, the Right Honorable Sir George Otto Trevelyan, distinguished historian of the American Revolution, said: "Recognition from such a body as the American Antiquarian Society has for me a value of a rare character. I shall never see Worcester or enter the Library in which henceforth I should have the privilege of reading but I accept the position of membership with gratitude and pleasure."

Many other English and Continental scholars have been more fortunate than Sir George and have spent happy and profitable hours within these walls. This summer as never before our reading room has, at times, been thronged with historical students occupying every available seat. The follower of the curious hobby of license plate hunting would have been richly rewarded by an examination of the cars parked about our building, for he would have found plates from almost every state in the union in the course of a few midsummer visits. As soon as the last college class has been dismissed many a historian packs his travelling bag and the notes for his forthcoming volume and turns the prow of his trusty car toward Worcester.

The subjects of their inquiries are of infinite variety and all of their problems are interesting. A scholar from the University of Kansas wished to know when aerial photography began and was delighted when we produced a balloon photograph of Boston taken, believe it or not, in 1860. Another historian needed to know something of the old firm which manufactured the famous Concord coaches and among them the

Deadwood Coach which closed its long and exciting career in the wild west show of Buffalo Bill. The handwriting expert of the Hauptmann case came in search of the early autograph of John Hancock to help authenticate a supposed original commission of George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, the genuineness of which had been questioned by the manuscript experts of the government.

An author in Buffalo wished to learn the details of Theodore Roosevelt's hasty inauguration after the assassination of McKinley. A novelist in Italy asked our aid in securing from the Public Record Office in London the official records of the courtmartial of that rollicking old time soldier of fortune, Robert Rogers the Ranger.

A newspaper publisher wrote to learn how he might hope to preserve the crumbling files of his newspaper; and a church in Rochester was supplied with the history of its first communion service. The business methods of our pioneer insurance companies interested a professor from Harvard, and a member of the diplomatic corps in Switzerland was saved from buying an early American flag supposed to have been given to Lafayette by the first American Congress but which had too many stars to be authentic.

When we answered one inquiry from the head of a well-known school for boys, he acknowledged our aid in this wise: "Permit me to thank you for the extreme courtesy of sending me copies of extracts from the *New York Packet* relating to the Wilkinson-Gates duel. Just such kindly acts as yours make me appreciate more than ever the helpful spirit that seems to dominate our best libraries."

We helped an authority on the history of sport to determine the earliest use of the word "baseball," which, strange to say, was in the eighteenth century. A writer on miniature newspapers was greatly aided by the use of our excellent collection of examples of lilliputian journalism. A patriotic citizen who wished

to learn the origin of "Yankee Doodle" was considerably surprised to learn that it was written by the followers of Cromwell in ridicule of the dashing Cavalier soldier, Prince Rupert of the Palatinate, who, by the way, was the son of the Queen of Hearts who made some tarts,—better known as Elizabeth Queen of Bohemia.

We supplied a historian with a portrait of the inventor of the first practical typewriter, located for a descendant of another inventor the original of the first clothes wringer and supplied still another investigator with the early history of the shredded wheat biscuit—all Worcester inventions. A mural painter came in search of the authentic costume and trappings of the post rider, to be used in decorating the new post office at West Springfield; and a New York collector wished to know the date of the first printing of "Old Mother Hubbard."

A writer in Oklahoma was given the name of the school in Great Barrington to which a certain Cherokee Indian was sent to secure a pale-face education in 1841; and a New York musical historian was supplied with the music of the all but forgotten song: "Go to the Devil and shake yourself." Two well-known writers were aided with source material for use in their newest historical novels for children and considerable assistance was given to the authorities by our Director in securing evidence against a notorious forger of literary and artistic properties who is now in jail.

A professor from Western Reserve University came in search of the history of the doughnut, the fried cake and the cruller. The life and works of Winslow Homer interested one investigator and early Philadelphia bookplates another, while our splendid collection of newspaper carriers' addresses filled a New York student with enthusiasm. The practice of medicine in the Union army during the Civil War and the manufacture of drugs by the Shakers kept two medical historians busy for some days, while the study of the

influence of Voltaire and the popularity of Bulwer-Lytton in America seemed essential to two graduate students.

Many another student came to us with his problems and went away with his wants supplied. We might quote from the advertisement of a famous household necessity and say that "We are advertised by our loving friends." Many of them write to tell us of their appreciation. Here is what one of them said in a letter not long ago: "It is very pleasing for a New Englander, exiled for a generation, to perceive that the old courtesies and kindnesses of our ancestors are still practiced in the land of our birth."

ACCESSIONS

The prices of rare books and historical materials are steadily rising while our income grows less with each succeeding year. As a result, our purchasing power is rapidly approaching zero. This is particularly unfortunate now, for we know that many important private libraries which have been held back during the depression because of low prices, are to be thrown on the market during the coming season. Unless we have ample help and that quickly, we will cease to be a great and growing institution.

Our accessions for the year are 5000 less than for the year 1934-5 and had it not been for the loyal friends who have once more come to our rescue with the gift of important books and manuscripts, and had we not been able to use our duplicates to advantage in exchange with other libraries, we would have virtually no accessions of importance to report except in the field of newspapers. However, we have done our best and this year have added to the library:

Books	3899
Pamphlets	11279
Prints, maps, manuscripts, etc.	4524
Unbound newspapers	810
Total for the year	<u>20512</u>

This year's additions give us a total of 225,056 bound volumes and 362,484 pamphlets, or a grand total of 587,540 titles in the library, exclusive of manuscripts, prints, maps and broadsides.

THE SAMUEL DEXTER PORTRAIT

One of the less known but no less worthy Revolutionary patriots of Boston was Samuel Dexter (1726-1810), merchant, member of the Council of Massachusetts Bay Colony and of the first Provincial Congress during the early days of the Revolution. He was an important member of the committee for the support of the army besieging Boston but retired from public life after the last session of the Provincial Congress in 1775. Dexter was also an influential citizen and office holder of Dedham and founded a lectureship in Biblical Criticism at Harvard. The excellent oil portrait of Samuel Dexter, painted from life by Major John Johnston (1752-1818), which descended to his great-grandson, Artemas Ward Lamson, came to us this year as the bequest of Mrs. Rebecca L. Lamson, the latter's widow. It has been given a place over the door of the librarian's office and a reproduction, together with an excellent biographical sketch of this old worthy, will be found in Mr. Clarence W. Bowen's *History of Woodstock, Connecticut*, Volume I, 1926, p. 177-195.

NEWSPAPERS

No year ever passes without the addition of many rare and interesting early volumes to our newspaper collection. Through the fortunate purchase of a nearly complete file of the *American Mercury*, of Hartford, for the years 1793-1797, 1805-1806 and 1814-1820, we now have one of the best extant sets of that important paper from 1784 to 1820; and the addition of the years 1812-1815 and 1823-1830, 1839-1840 and

1846 to our file of the equally important New Haven, Connecticut, *Herald*, gives us a nearly complete run of that journal from 1804 to 1846. Through exchanges with various Maine libraries we were also able to add a long run of the very rare *Falmouth Gazette* for 1785-1786 as well as its successor, the *Cumberland Gazette*, published at Falmouth and later at Portland from 1786 to 1791. We also secured a partial file of the *Portland Gazette* from 1798 to 1800, including the interesting issues in the latter year which were draped in mourning for George Washington, this fine file being the gift of Mr. M. B. Jones.

For the important period around the War of 1812 our collection has been enriched by the addition of the *Pittsfield Sun*, 1809-1818, the Hanover, New Hampshire, *American*, 1816-1817, incomplete, but the best known file, the *Hallowell Gazette* for 1817, the *Elizabethtown*, New Jersey, *Journal*, 1811-1813, the *Union* [Pennsylvania], *Fayette Spectator*, 1811-1812, the *Harrisburgh Oracle of Dauphin*, 1800-1807, and the *Norfolk* [Virginia] *Gazette*, 1804-1805 and 1814-1815. And last but by no means least, we are happy to record that our remarkably fine collection of West Indian newspapers has been enriched by the addition of the excessively rare issues of the Bridge-Town, *Barbados Mercury* for September 29 and October 6 and 13, 1770, the gift of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach.

When Franklin's nephew, Benjamin Mecom, returned to Boston from his unsuccessful publishing venture in Antigua, he began a short lived but interesting little periodical called the *New England Magazine*, the first number of which was dated August, 1758. It was followed by two undated issues which we know from newspaper advertisements were issued in October 1758 and March 1759. The magazine had no regular subscription list but was hawked around town with Mecom's other chapbooks and ballads and so it is not surprising that its career ended abruptly with the third issue. It is a very interesting literary hodgepodge

of poetry, essays, fiction, moral teaching, broad humor, parable and satire. As a piece of Americana it is of special attractiveness, for it contains Franklin's "Advice to a young tradesman" and Mecom's eulogistic poem to his patron-uncle entitled: "Poetical Dedication to a good Old Gentleman," which must have flattered Franklin considerably and paved the way for another "touch" the next time the impecunious nephew got into financial difficulties. This little twelve-mo periodical of three sixty page numbers is so rare that there is no other known complete set, though the Boston Public Library has numbers 1 and 2; the Library of Congress numbers 2 and 3 and the Massachusetts Historical Society numbers 1 and 3. Our set is fortunately complete.

The most important newspaper files added to our collection during the past year are as follows:

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD, AMERICAN MERCURY, 1793-1797, 1805-1806, 1814-1820
 NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT HERALD, 1812-1815, 1823-1830
 NEW HAVEN, DAILY HERALD, 1839-1840, 1846

MAINE

BANGOR WEEKLY REGISTER, 1815-1816
 CASTINE EAGLE, 1809-1811
 FALMOUTH GAZETTE, 1785-1786
 FALMOUTH AND PORTLAND, CUMBERLAND GAZETTE, 1786-1791
 HALLOWELL GAZETTE, 1817
 PORTLAND GAZETTE, 1798-1800

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, FLAG OF OUR UNION, 1855-1856
 PITTSFIELD SUN, 1809-1818
 WORCESTER EVENING POST, 1897-1926

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HANOVER, AMERICAN, 1816-1817

NEW JERSEY

ELIZABETHTOWN, NEW JERSEY JOURNAL, 1811-1813

NEW YORK

ALBANY FREEHOLDER, 1845-1851
 NEW YORK WEEKLY TRIBUNE, 1843

OHIO

COLUMBUS, STATE JOURNAL, 1837-1838, 1841-1853, 1858-1860

PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURGH, ORACLE OF DAUPHIN, 1800-1807

MAUCH CHUNK, CARBON DEMOCRAT, 1849-1852

UNION, FAYETTE SPECTATOR, 1811-1812

VERMONT

DANSVILLE, NORTH STAR, 1841-1847, 1850, 1858, 1861-1862, 1864-1865, 1873-1883, incomplete

WINDSOR, CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, 1857-1859, incomplete

WINDSOR CHRONICLE, 1853-1876, incomplete

VIRGINIA

NORFOLK GAZETTE, 1804-1805, 1814-1815

ALMANACS

Visitors to our library are frequently surprised to find an entire room devoted to almanacs and they often remark on the seeming impossibility of our finding any new titles to add to the tens of thousands on our shelves. We still lack a good many of the rarer almanacs outside of New England, however, especially those printed in the South. This year we have had unusual luck and in the list of forty-six rarities which follows, we have found one of which there are but four other known copies, one of which there are three, six of which there are two, seventeen of which there is but one other copy recorded and twenty-one which seem to be unique.

These include the hitherto unknown American Country Almanack for 1753, printed by Franklin and Hall; the New York Almanack for 1796, printed at the now non-existent village of Whitestown, the only example of an almanac from that pioneer press; three early almanacs printed by the Bradfords of New York and Philadelphia; and other unique almanacs from Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, South Carolina and Virginia. One of the most interesting is the very rare Williamsburg, 1758 edition of the Virginia Almanack containing the civil and military

diary and accounts of Captain William Preston, a prominent officer in the French and Indian wars in Colonial Virginia.

CONNECTICUT

- DANBURY Farmer's American Almanace for 1796. One other known.
- HARTFORD Astronomia Ephemeris for 1782. One other known.
- LITCHFIELD Connecticut Almanack [Judd's] for 1789. Unique.
Connecticut, Massachusetts, New-York and Vermont Almanack for 1795. One other known.
- NEW HAVEN Connecticut Diary for 1757. By Roger Sherman. One other known.
Astronomia Diary for 1786. With map of United States by A. Doolittle. Two others known with map.

GEORGIA

- AUGUSTA Georgia and South-Carolina Almanac for 1800. Unique.
Georgia and South-Carolina Almanack for 1807.
Georgia and South-Carolina Republican Almanac for 1808.
Georgia and South-Carolina Republican Almanac for 1810.
Georgia and South-Carolina Almanack for 1813.
Georgia and South-Carolina Almanack for 1815.
Georgia and South-Carolina Almanac for 1817.
Georgia and South-Carolina Almanack for 1818.

MARYLAND

- BALTIMORE Benjamin Banneker's Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia Almanack for 1792. One other known.

MASSACHUSETTS

- SPRINGFIELD Webster's New-England Almanack for 1788. Unique.

NEW YORK

- NEW YORK The American Almanack for 1742. By Titan Leeds.
Three others known.
Astronomia diary for 1752. By Roger Sherman. Unique
Poor Roger, 1762. By Roger More. Two others located.
Freeman's New-York Almanack for 1772. One other known.
Poor Will Improved for 1785. Four others located.
- WHITESTOWN New-York Almanack for 1796. Unique copy of only known Whitestown almanac and one of very few known Whitestown imprints.

PENNSYLVANIA

- PHILADELPHIA** Genuine Leeds Almanack for 1730. Two others known. Leeds 1731. One other known.
 American Country Almanack for 1753. By Thomas More. Printed by B. Franklin, and D. Hall. Unique.
 Poor Will's Almanack for 1780. One other known.
 Father Tammany's Almanac for 1786. One other known.
 Poor Richard improved for 1787. One other known.
 Benjamin Bannaker's Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia Almanac for 1795. Unique with this imprint.

SOUTH CAROLINA

- CHARLESTOWN** South-Carolina and Georgia Almanack for 1771. By John Tobler. Unique.
 Carolina and Georgia Almanack for 1784. [By John Tobler]. One other located.
 South-Carolina and Georgia Almanack for 1784. By John Tobler. Unique.
 Southern States Ephemeris for 1788. One other located.
 South-Carolina, North-Carolina, and Georgia almanack for 1792. One other located.
 South-Carolina and Georgia Almanac for 1794. Unique.

VIRGINIA

- RICHMOND** Virginia Almanack for 1781. One other known.
 Same, 1784. One other known.
 Same, 1785. One other known.
 Same, 1787. Unique with this imprint.
 Same, 1790. Unique.
 Same, 1791. Unique.
 Same, 1794. One other known.
 Same, 1797. Contains Washington's farewell address. Two others known.
 Same, 1798. One other known.
- WILLIAMSBURG** Same, 1758. Contains civil and military diary of Capt. William Preston. Two others known.
 Same, 1776. Two others known.

POETRY

The collector of Colonial verse who sets out to assemble all of the elusive poems of Benjamin Church will probably discover that he has started something which he cannot finish. This library, however, after a century of alert pursuit, has finally secured what we

believe is a complete collection of these excessively rare and exceedingly interesting pamphlets, thanks in part to a fortunate exchange of duplicates with the Massachusetts Historical Society. For many years we have owned an imperfect copy of Church's fiery satire: "The Times," published in Boston in 1765, and no copy could be more interesting for it once belonged to Samuel Adams and contains his autograph. This year we were able to add a title page from another copy and so make ours complete once more. There is another perfect copy in the Massachusetts Historical Society and one lacking the title at Brown University. Apparently old Sam Adams highly approved of this patriotic outburst for he has scored with an admiring pen the page which begins:

Fair Liberty our soul's most darling prize,
A bleeding victim flits before our eyes:
Was it for this our great forefathers rode,
O'er a vast ocean to this bleak abode!

Again in 1769 Church's wrath boiled over in a bitter attack on the dearly hated Francis Bernard, Governor of Massachusetts Bay who was about to be recalled to England after a turbulent and incompetent administration. Church paid his disrespects to Bernard in "An Address to A Provincial Bashaw. By a Son of Liberty." [Boston], 1769, (Other copies: BA. BU. JCB. LC. MHS.)

Three of its 27 verses being as follows:

But when some Miscreant eminently vile,
Springs into place, and blindly arm'd with power;
Presuming on his privilege to spoil,
Betrays a keen impatience to devour: . . .

Conflicting Passions thro' the Bosom roll,
Indignant Virtue stabs with every groan;
To sov'reign Vengeance, we consign the Soul,
But on the cursed Carcase wreak our own. . . .

Tell me proud Villain! shameless as thou art!
Now thine opprobrious Conduct taints the air;
Does not Remorse harrass thy callous Heart,
And pour a poison'd Flood of Anguish there?

But I would not have you think that Church's classic verse was always vitriolic, for he could be kindly and even affectionate as we know from his "Elegy on the Death of the Reverend Jonathan Mayhew, D.D., who departed this life July 9th, Anno Domini, 1766. Aetatis suae 46. Boston, [1766]. Through 50 verses bristling with lavish though stilted admiration, he addresses Mayhew in his "fair Bow'r of Bliss enthron'd" in this wise:

Mayhew! stand forth from every Seraph there,
Claim Admiration from the few forgiven.
A mortal Being never rose more fair,
Nor shone more radiant midst the Files of Heav'n.

A rhymer of a duskier hue was Jupiter Hammon, only rival of Phillis Wheatley for the honor of being the eighteenth century American Negro poet laureate. He was, indeed, the first American Negro poet and left behind him two broadside poems, two pamphlets containing verse and two essays, one of which is known only from an advertisement, while several copies of the other, which went through three editions, have been preserved. Of these we have had for many years a first edition of his "Address to the Negroes in the State of New York." New York, 1787; and now we have secured the very rare pamphlet: "A Winter piece . . . Written by Jupiter Hammon, a Negro Man belonging to Mr. John Lloyd, of Queen's Village, on Long Island, now in Hartford." Hartford, 1782. There are four other known copies of this essay (BU. CHS. MHS. PROV. PL.) which has at the end: "A Poem for Children with Thoughts on Death," the only original example of the author's verse in our library.

Joel Barlow has been assiduously collected by this library for many years and we have most of his writings in their original editions. This year a modest octavo broadside came our way which, though unsigned, is in all likelihood, from his pen. It is the 1785 carrier's address of the [Hartford] *American Mercury* of which Barlow was then the editor, and it has the

following caption title: "The Carrier of the *American Mercury* Wishes his Customers a Happy New-Year, And presents the following." Though the broadside is undated and has no imprint we can assign a positive date from the line: "The first happy New-Year that graced your new city." This can refer only to the year 1785 for it was in the previous year that Hartford was incorporated. We can therefore supply the imprint: [Hartford: Printed at the office of the *American Mercury*, 1785]. and add one more to our list of Joel Barlow first editions.

Our old friend Thomas Shaw of Standish, often mentioned in these reports, must needs appear again, for Mr. M. B. Jones has given us, along with a sheaf of other interesting broadside eulogies and ballads, a copy of the following: "A Mournful Song of the death Of the Wife and Child of Mr. Nathaniel Knights, of Windham, who fell off the bridge at the Falls, above Horse Beef Mills, on Presumpscott River, February 22, 1807. [Colophon:] Portland, Printed by J. M'Kown. [1807]." I will spare you the dismal story as related with obvious relish by this mournful literary mortician of Maine and will close his record for the year by saying that we now have nearly all of his fascinatingly lugubrious ballads.

YANKEE DOODLE

We now have in our collection of broadside ballads what well may be the earliest version of the words of Yankee Doodle. When Mr. O. G. T. Sonneck, Chief of the Division of Music of the Library of Congress, published his: *Report on "The Star-Spangled Banner" "Hail Columbia" "America" "Yankee Doodle"* in 1909, the earliest text of the famous old song which he was able to find was one which could not have been printed earlier than 1775. Our broadside version of the song, with eighteen verses and a chorus, must be earlier than 1775 and was probably written to celebrate one

of the campaigns against the French in Canada in the seventeen forties or fifties, and may perhaps have been printed as late as the seventeen sixties. It has no imprint or date but its two woodcuts and other printer's ornaments would seem to date it well before the Revolution.

Of its eighteen verses, nine appear with many changes in the first Revolutionary version of the song, while there are six verses of the latter, including the references to Washington, which are not in the earlier version, and there are nine of this earlier version not in the form published about 1775.

This colonial version of Yankee Doodle is a broadside measuring $13\frac{1}{4}$ by 10 inches. It is printed in two columns with a row of printer's ornaments down the middle and two woodcuts above, neither of which has any bearing on the song. One represents the head of a Medusa-like woman with a dragon in her arms, another in her hair and a supernatural bird flying to attack one of the dragons. The other woodcut represents a hunter with a gun, riding on the back of a greyhound. They are evidently stock woodcuts previously used in some unknown chapbook. Below the woodcuts appears the caption title: *Yankee Song*. The ballad came from the collection of the Reverend Sidney Dean, a well-known Rhode Island minister and, since it was with a number of similar pieces, most of them having been printed in Warren or some other Rhode Island town, it is quite possible that this piece also came from an early Rhode Island press.

The first three verses of the song are given below and it will be noticed that the second verse, with its reference to the campaign in Canada, fixes the date long before the Revolution. The third verse, with variations, appears as the first verse of the Revolutionary version, the name "Goodwin" of the earlier version being changed to "Gooding" in the later editions in order to make the word rhyme with "pudding."

The song begins:

There is a man in our town,
I'll tell you his condition,
He sold his Oxen and his Cows
To buy him a commission.

When a commission he had got
He prov'd to be a coward,
He durst not go to Canada
For fear of being devoured.

But father and I went down to camp
Along with Captain Goodwin,
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as Hastypudding.

Then follow six verses, variants of which appear in the Revolutionary version. The tenth, eleventh and twelfth verses of the original were largely rewritten and the name of "Captain Washington" inserted in the Revolutionary version in place of the description of the anonymous drill master of the earlier form of the song. The last six verses of the older song have nothing to do with the visit to camp, though they are very interesting. The curious original chorus is entirely different from that of any later version of the song. It is as follows:

Corn stalks twist your hair off,
Cart-wheel frolic round you,
Old fiery dragon carry you off,
And mortar pessel pound you.

The earliest Revolutionary version of the song was probably rewritten and improved by Edward Bangs, to whose authorship the entire text has been erroneously attributed. His version was probably inspired by a visit to the patriot camp at Cambridge in 1775. It was first published, so far as we now know, in a broadside entitled: "The Farmer and his Son's return from a visit to the Camp." Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach owns the only recorded copy. It was promptly reprinted by the same printer, probably in Boston, with a few unimportant improvements in phraseology and punctuation, with

the title: "The Yankey's return from Camp." Of this edition, our library has the only known copy.

The song was popular in broadside form until after the War of 1812, several editions being in our library, but in none of them is the song called Yankee Doodle. The tune Yankee Doodle, which has always been used with these words, dates back to the time of Cromwell and was used with other words to ridicule the Cavalier officer, Prince Rupert of the Palatinate, a brave and skillful general, though something of a fop in his personal appearance. He was particularly feared and hated by the Roundheads and the following well known verse was written by them in ridicule of their most feared enemy:

Yankee Doodle came to town,
Riding on a pony;
Stuck a feather in his hat,
And called it macaroni.

Sonneck states that this verse was written in ridicule of Cromwell but Katherine Elwes Thomas' *The real personages of Mother Goose*, 1930, p. 259-270, correctly states that the original Yankee Doodle was Prince Rupert. For a fuller discussion of the many versions of the song, see Sonneck's *Report*, mentioned at the beginning of this note.

JUVENILES

The highest type of generous sportsmanship is the giving away of something you want to keep for your own collection just because you feel that a rival collection really ought to have it. And that is just what happened this year when Mr. Wilbur Macey Stone presented us with one of the two known copies (the other being in the Boston Public Library) of "A poetical description of song birds," printed at Worcester by Isaiah Thomas in 1788. Last year Mr. Charles H. Taylor gave us a new Thomas imprint, this year it was

Mr. Stone and next year I hope that some one will again come to our rescue, for it is only with the help of our friends that we can hope to have our collections approach perfection. Mr. Stone also presented an 1849 Robinson Crusoe which we lacked and we secured one printed in Philadelphia in 1803 from another source.

It would be a poor year indeed in which we could not find at least one New England Primer to add to our collection. This year we picked up four which are rare enough to talk about. They are the editions printed in Hartford in 1795 and 1803, Middletown, 1811 and Buffalo, 1823. Another early Hartford juvenile which came our way is the "History of Little King Pippin" printed by Nathaniel Patten in 1789. It is not in Evans and we have found no other copy. To our long series of editions of the "History of the Holy Jesus" we added the Exeter, 1813 and New York, 1814 editions and the 1818 New York edition of the "Cries of New York" came to make our heart glad. Many other children's books of quaint design and genuine interest came from Mr. Taylor and Mr. Jones as well as from a variety of other sources.

MEDDLESOME MR. MATHER

Though Cotton Mather was looked up to with considerable awe by his own generation, he was a constant irritation to his contemporaries because of his insistence on having a finger in every pie, whether ecclesiastical or civil or merely the simple mutton pie on the table of his next-door neighbor. His learning was extraordinary for his day and whatever he studied and pondered, was apt to be put into print. Though he often rushed in where his less egotistical associates feared to tread, he did leave behind him a most interesting and varied contribution to the history of his times. Something of his versatility is shown in the half dozen titles from his pen which we are about to mention.

For many years there was preserved in one of the newspaper volumes of our collection a small folio broadside with this caption: "Rules For the Society of Negroes. 1693." On the back of it we find the following contemporary note, in the hand of Samuel Sewall: "Left at my house for me, when I was not at home, by Spaniard Dr. Mather's Negro; March, 23. 1713/14." We know from Cotton Mather's diary that he drew up this set of rules for the use of a Boston congregation of Negro slaves in which he was interested. From the date, we may feel sure that it was first printed, probably in broadside form in 1693 and we know from his diary that there were originally but eight rules laid down for the guidance of "the Miserable Children of Adam, and of Noah," as he calls them in his preamble. No copy of this 1693 broadside seems to have survived. The copy in our collection, and also that in the New York Public Library, has a ninth rule, recommending the use of certain catechisms, among them one entitled: "The Negro Christianized," (BM. BPL.) which we know was written by Mather and printed in 1706. From this fact and from the date on the back of the broadside, we may assume that this second edition of the Rules was printed, probably in Boston by Batholomew Green, between 1706 and 1713. It makes Cotton Mather a little more human when we know that he was not too busy with larger affairs to devote a portion of his time to the welfare of the slaves of early Boston and to leave behind him these rules for their conduct, which must be among the earliest of American publications in the interest of the Negro.

Some months ago one of our generous members presented us with a copy of one of Cotton Mather's most important historical works. It is called: *Decennium Luctuosum. An History of Remarkable Occurrences, In the Long war, Which New-England hath had with the Indian Salvages, From the Year, 1688. To the Year, 1698. . . . Boston in New-England. Printed*

by B. Green, and F. Allen, for Samuel Phillips, at the Brick Shop near the Old-Meeting House, 1699. 254, [1] p., 8vo. Our copy, alas, is imperfect but so are a half dozen of the eight known copies, the two perfect examples being the Brinley-Leiter copy, now owned by our fellow member, Mr. F. C. Deering, and the copy formerly owned by our member, Mr. W. G. Mather and now part of the estate of our late member, Mr. Tracy W. McGregor. Cotton Mather would have made a first class journalist, for we find in this fascinating little volume, an interesting account of the many adventures and tribulations of the early settlers during King William's War. For one interested in stories of Indian captivity and frontier adventure, this volume is of first importance and so we are happy to welcome it, even though a few pages must be supplied by the use of the photostat.

And now we find the learned doctor trying his hand at the theological side of obstetrics. Realizing that he could not himself visit all of the women of the city who were about to become mothers and who needed spiritual guidance as well as the skill of the midwife, Dr. Mather printed a tiny tract of three dozen eighteenmo pages which he called: "Elizabeth in her Holy Retirement. An Essay To Prepare a Pious Woman for her Lying in. Or, Maxims and Methods of Piety, To Direct and Support an Handmaid of the Lord, Who Expects a Time of Travail. . . . Boston in N. E. Printed by B. Green, for Nicholas Boone, at his Shop in Corn Hill. 1710." In his preface, Mather explains that he intends supplying the midwives of the community with copies of the essay so that they might give or lend it to those most in need of its advice and consolation. But his theology was of such a fierce and terrifying nature that we cannot but wonder whether the reading of it may not have done more harm than good. It must have been well received however, for only three copies seem to have survived, one in the Bodleian, the Prince copy in the Boston Public Library

and the present copy, for which we are most grateful to Mr. M. B. Jones.

And now let us accompany the good Doctor from the obstetrical to the contagious ward while we examine his essay on the measles. Of course we know that many of the early colonial clergy were well versed in medicine, and in Cotton Mather's writings we find many evidences of his knowledge of the art of healing. It seems strange to us that measles, which we do not ordinarily consider a serious disease, was the cause of hundreds of deaths in Colonial New England. The epidemic of 1713 was particularly severe and Cotton Mather's own experience with it was indeed a most tragic one, for in that year, his wife, his new-born twins and two of his other children had died of the dread disorder. It was but natural, then, that he should write this tract in order to help others fight the disease and if his wholesome advice was taken, many lives were undoubtedly saved. This little leaflet of four pages is so rare that it has never had a correct bibliographical description and the recent rediscovery of the author's own copy in our collection, is responsible for its inclusion here. Though unsigned, we know from Mather's diary (MHS. Coll. 7 ser., v. 8, p. 272) that he was the author and that he had it printed in 1713. That ours is one of the original edition is proven from the inscription in Mather's hand on its fourth page: "A Letter to Instruct about Measles. 1713. Winter." The caption title reads: "A Letter, About a Good Management under the Distemper of the Measles, at this time Spreading in the Country. Here Published for the Benefit of the Poor, and such as may want the help of Able Physicians." [Boston, 1713]. 4 p., 4to. The other known copy is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The controversy over smallpox inoculation which followed the epidemic of 1721 is familiar to all students of our colonial history and it is well known that Cotton Mather, the principal advocate of inoculation, wrote or

inspired a number of pamphlets on the subject. One of the most interesting of these which has generally been attributed to Isaac Greenwood but which was almost certainly written, at least in part, by Mather, is: *A Friendly Debate; or, A Dialogue, Between Academicus; And Sawny & Mundungus, Two Eminent Physicians, About some of their Late Performances. . .* Boston: in N.E. Printed in the Year, MDCCLXXII. [2], ii, 24 p., 8vo. A copy of this interesting tract was secured this year on exchange with the Massachusetts Historical Society, the owner of the other recorded copy.

As a final illustration of Dr. Mather's versatility, we will mention another of his rare publications which we secured this year, and in it we see him as the suave and diplomatic politician, when, as spokesman for the New England clergy, he welcomed the new royal governor in 1717. The title of this folio broadsheet, of which there are also copies in the Boston Athenaeum and the Massachusetts Historical Society, is as follows: *A Speech Made unto His Excellency, Samuel Shute, Esq; Captain General and Governour in Chief, in and over the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England. By the Reverend, Dr. Cotton Mather. Attended with the Ministers of the Massachusetts-Province, New-England, May 30. 1717. [Caption title.] [Colophon:] Boston: Printed and Sold by B. Green in Newbury-Street. 1717.*

THE MARCH OF TIME

"The March of Time" is a currently popular phrase among the habitués of the tabloid and the cinema and so, in order to be timely, I propose to conduct you through some hundred and fifty years of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, using as stepping stones, a group of twenty-odd volumes of more or less merit, secured by our library during the current year.

The first three are all, alas, somewhat defective

and the scholar will have to be content if he sometimes finds a photostat leaf in place of the browned page of old hand-made paper. The extreme rarity of these items may, perhaps, excuse their inclusion in spite of their crippled condition.

The years 1643 and 1644 found the Presbyterian party in England struggling with a small group of independents over the form of church government. The famous Westminster Assembly of Divines was in session and anyone who had anything to say on the subject placed his views before that august body and the Parliament which was back of it, in hopes that he might influence the final form of the church discipline. Roger Williams was then in England and his contribution to the controversy was not the least in value and importance, though he took exception to some of the proposals of both of the principal parties of the debate. Williams published his views in pamphlet form under the title: "Queries of highest Consideration . . . In all Humble Reverence presented to the view of the Right Honourable the Houses of the High Court of Parliament. London, Imprinted in the yeare MDCXLIV." At the time of its reissue in the second volume of the Publications of the Narragansett Club in 1867, the only known copy of this rare tract was in the British Museum. There are now copies in six American libraries (AAS. BPL. HEH. JCB. NYPL. UTS.) and ours, which has a facsimile title, recently came as a duplicate from the Huntington Library.

Apostle Eliot was the first to publish a grammar in North America. It was called: "The Indian Grammar Begun: or, An Essay to bring the Indian Language into Rules, For the Help of such as desire to Learn the same, for the furtherance of the Gospel among them. . . . Cambridge: Printed by Marmaduke Johnson. 1666." [4], 65, [1] p., 4to. We had never owned so much as a leaf of this important piece of American incunabula when an imperfect copy came on the market this year. Its price was far beyond our reach

but we knew that our friend Mr. John H. Scheide owned a fragment with the title and several leaves missing. The copy offered us had a title and the other leaves necessary to complete Mr. Scheide's cripple, so we made it possible for him to secure both; he completed his copy and presented us with what remained of the newly discovered copy. Though it has nine leaves in facsimile, it is such an interesting copy that it is worth careful preservation. Fortunately, it is still in its original leather binding. Most of the known copies were sent to England for the use of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and were either kept by its members or found their way into the great British libraries. But this copy is one which for over 170 years was owned and used in the Indian missions.

Inside the front cover is an inscription in such faded ink that no one seems to have been able to decipher it and so discover its interesting history until now. This inscription reads: "For the Museum. This relic of the labors of the apostle of the Missionary Indians was received by Mr. Vogler from Mr. Metoxen at Stockbridge, Wisconsin Terr. April [?] [] th 1837. May the Lord raise up more Eliots in our land." Though we cannot be sure, this memorandum is probably in the hand of Cutting Marsh, the missionary to the Stockbridge Indians at that time. He probably sent it to the eastern headquarters of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions or to the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, both of which helped support his mission. Its later history is, unfortunately unknown. John Metoxen, from whom the volume was secured in 1837, was a chief of the Christian party of Mohican or Stockbridge Indians. He was born at Stockbridge, Massachusetts in 1770, educated by the Moravians at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, removed with his people to Stockbridge, New York, in 1821 and to Stockbridge, Wisconsin in 1834. He was a great athlete, interpreter, orator and Indian preacher and died at Stockbridge July 21, 1855.

His old Eliot grammar was probably in use for many years at the Indian Mission at Stockbridge, Massachusetts and may even have helped John Seargent, to learn the Mohican language back in 1734 when he founded the mission. Though its complete history will never be known, it is interesting that it once belonged to Chief John Metoxen whom his own people accurately described as "The Last of the Mohicans."¹ Ten copies are known to have survived. (AAS. BM. BOD. HCL. JCB. NYPL. UED. UGOT. J. H. SCHEIDE.)

Our next title brings us nearer home, for it is the original edition of Captain Thomas Wheeler's narrative of the famous Indian fight at Brookfield in Worcester County in the year 1676: "A Thankful Remembrance of Gods Mercy To several Persons at Quabaug or Brookfield . . . Cambridge, Printed and Sold by Samuel Green 1676." [6], 14, 32 p., 4to. Its story of siege and final rescue is one of the most thrilling tales of Indian fighting in Colonial New England and it is so rare that we can find but four other copies (JCB. LC. NYPL. YALE). Our copy once belonged to the New England historian, Samuel G. Drake, whose neat manuscript of the missing pages has now been replaced by photostat. The volume later belonged to the John Carter Brown Library from whom we secured it on exchange. The main narrative has four leaves in facsimile and the accompanying sermon, seven. Still, over half of the book is original and we are glad to have even this fragment until good fortune brings us a perfect copy.

Our next stepping stone is interesting because it is the only known example of what is probably the first American publication relating to the blind. It is a sermon by Josiah Dwight, Pastor of the Church at Woodstock and is entitled: *A Bright Side of Dark Providences. Great and sore Affliction of such Living Christians as are under a total Deprivation of Sight. Considered, Commiserated & Improved, in a Sermon*

¹Wisconsin Historical Society Collections, vol. 4, 1859, p. 303-307; vol. 15, 1900, p. 41.

Upon Luke 18. 41. . . . Boston, Printed by John Allen, for Nicholas Boone, at the Sign of the Bible in Cornhill. 1710. 12 p., 16mo. Evans described it inaccurately from an advertisement but never saw a copy. We are indebted to Mr. M. B. Jones for this rare piece.

One of the rarest of Colonial political tracts is Alexander Holmes' "The Deplorable State of New-England, By Reason of a Covetous and Treacherous Governour, and Pusillanimous Counsellors . . . London: Printed in the Year 1708. [Boston:] Reprinted 1721." [4], 36 p., 8vo. The first edition of 1708, a copy of which we have had for many years, is rare enough, with only eight known copies, but the Boston reprint of 1721 is far rarer since the copy at the Massachusetts Historical Society and their duplicate, which we now have, are the only ones we have been able to find. This important tract is packed with embarrassing facts neatly stated and the Governor probably found it easier to attempt the suppression of the tract than the answering of it.

The military manuals used during the French and Indian wars are uncommonly hard to come by, for most of them were worn out by the hard conditions of Indian fighting, so that they are now, for the most part, known only by the advertisements of their publishers. As early as 1733, David Henchman, of Boston, reprinted William Breton's *Militia Discipline* from the London edition, to which he added 20 new pages and also the military law of the colony. We can find no copy located elsewhere but we now have a fine one in its original leather binding. With it came the separate publication of William Brattle's *Sundry Rules and Directions for Drawing Up a Regiment*. Boston, 1733, and of this also there seems to be no other copy. We might also mention that we now have the rare Hartford [1783] and 1792 reprints of Steuben's *Regulations* to add to our long series of the editions of this once popular work.

For many years we have been embarrassed by the

want of a first edition of Samuel Smith's *History of New Jersey*. Burlington, 1765. This work is so important that Wilberforce Eames gave it a two-page note in *Sabin's Dictionary*, and so we are glad that we now have the original as well as the 1877 reprint. Since there were 600 copies printed there must be quite a number still preserved but we have only located eight.

Not all students of English literature who are familiar with the charming essays and poetry of Leigh Hunt know that his father, Isaac Hunt, was a graduate of what is now the University of Pennsylvania and that he very nearly failed to receive his M.A. because of the vitriolic lampoons which he directed at the provost of the College and the leading men of the Colony. The first of his lampoons, which seem to have attacked nearly everyone of importance except Benjamin Franklin, was called "A Humble Attempt at Scurrility . . . By Jack Retort, Student in Scurrility. Quilsylvania: Printed, 1765." His American publications are very rare, curious and decidedly scurrilous, as the following couplet from the beginning of a poem in his *Humble Attempt* abundantly demonstrates:

Illit'rate Dolt! whose muddy Pate contains,
Scandal and Lies, but not a Dram of Brains.

It is no wonder that the irate Whigs of Philadelphia threatened to tar and feather Hunt and that he finally made the city so hot for himself that he was glad to return to England where he turned from politics to preaching, of which he made a dismal failure. But his *Humble Attempt* is still amusing and also uncommonly scarce, only four copies being on record. (AAS. HSP. LC. NYPL).

Two years after the beginning of printing in Hartford, the first printer of that city, Thomas Green, published Thomas Fitch's anonymous attack on the Stamp Act entitled: "Some Reasons that influenced

the Governor to take, and the Councillors to administer the Oath, Required by the Act of Parliament; commonly called the Stamp Act . . ." Evans fails to locate a copy but six are known (AAS. BPL. HSP. MHS. NYPL. UTS), none of them, strangely enough, being in the State where the essay was printed.

The greed for unallotted public lands has been a feature of each step of our western expansion and hundreds of pages of the official publications of our various states are full of the boundary controversies which they have heatedly waged with their neighbors. The fight for the ownership of the New Hampshire Grants was a notable squabble over the territory between the Connecticut and Hudson rivers, claimed by Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York but destined eventually to become a part of the new state of Vermont. New York's claim to this valuable tract is supposed to have been drawn up by James Duane whose personal fortune, through grants from that Colony, was largely involved in the outcome of the controversy. New York's case appears in two folio publications with the following titles: "A State of the Right of the Colony of New-York, with respect To it's Eastern Boundary on Connecticut River, So far as concerns the late Encroachments under The Government of New-Hampshire." . . . New-York: Printed by H. Gaine . . . 1773. 28 p.; and: "A Narrative of the Proceedings Subsequent to the Royal Adjudication, Concerning the Lands To the Westward of Connecticut River, lately usurped by New-Hampshire. . . ." New-York: Printed by John Holt . . . M,DCC,LXXIII. 28, [66] p. Of the first of these documents we have located seven copies (AAS. HEH. JCB. LC. MHS. NHHS. NYPL.), and of the second, seven copies (AAS. HEH. JCB. LC. NHHS. NYPL. WLC.). Our unusually fine and tall copies are in their original wrappers. They were secured at the Herman LeRoy Edgar sale in 1921 by Mr. T. W. Streeter who has most generously presented them to our Library. They are of great importance to

the study of the colonial history of New York, New Hampshire and Vermont and we are most fortunate in having secured them.

Connecticut also spent many years quarreling with New York and Pennsylvania regarding lands in those states and in Ohio which she claimed were hers by royal charter. One of the important documents of this controversy is the: "Report of the Commissioners Appointed by the General Assembly of this Colony, [Connecticut] To Treat with the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, Respecting the Boundaries of this Colony and that Province. Norwich: Printed by Green & Spooner. 1774." iv, 37 p., 4to. Our copy came as a duplicate from the Massachusetts Historical Society.

We have always been greatly interested in the settlement of the Western Reserve in Ohio, since Rufus Putnam and so many of the pioneers in that venture came from this locality. Many of the elusive publications relating to these Ohio lands are in our collection and so we were very glad to secure three more this year. Though small in size, they are rare and important. None of these three twelvemo leaflets of four leaves each has an imprint but they were doubtless printed in Hartford about 1796. Their titles are brief: "Articles of Agreement." [of the Connecticut Gore Land Company, dated at Hartford, Sept. 17, 1795]; "Supplementary Articles of Agreement." [Dated at Hartford, April 8, 1796]; and "Mode of Partition, of the Western Reserve." [Dated at Hartford the first Tuesday of April (i.e., April 5) 1796. The first two documents refer to the "Gore" in southern New York, the third to the Western Reserve in Ohio.]

We all know that Thomas Paine was the leading propagandist of the Revolution and that his "Common Sense" did more than any other publication to arouse the colonies. Though a hundred thousand copies of this tract were printed, all contemporary editions of it

are very rare today. We have many issues but have just added one of the rarest, that printed at Hartford by Eben. Watson in 1776. This edition is so rare that Evans, Sabin and Trumbull missed it altogether and we know of no other copy. The same printer published No. V of "The American Crisis," Paine's other great Revolutionary publication. The bibliographers all mention this edition but without locating a copy. We now have it as well as several other editions of this and other numbers of the series.

One of the most gallant and able of the British officers of the Revolution was Colonel John G. Simcoe, commander of the hated but efficient Tory regiment known as the Queen's Rangers. After he retired from the Army, Simcoe had privately printed his "Journal of the Operations of the Queen's Rangers, From the End of the Year 1777, to the Conclusion of the Late American War. Exeter: Printed for the Author." [1787]. This handsome quarto, illustrated with accurate military plans, was practically unknown in this country at the time of the publication of the New York reprint in 1844 and Sabin in 1891 could locate only the copies at Harvard and the New York Public Library, though he mentions several that had sold at auction. Our fine copy is a John Carter Brown duplicate and we also have the comparatively rare 1844 edition.

Public executions and dying confessions fascinated our hard boiled ancestors and we do not find the published records of these gruesome transactions altogether uninteresting today. One of the smart printers of the eighteenth century who made good money by catering to this depraved taste was Ezekiel Russell of Boston who planned to publish serially all of the contemporary narratives of crime he could find. His ambitious plans were set forth in his first which, alas was also his last, number, the title of which I quote from the unique copy of the first edition recently given us by Mr. Charles H. Taylor. Isaiah Thomas

saw that it looked interesting, so he reprinted it and we also have the only known copy of his edition. The title of Russell's edition is as follows: *The American Bloody Register: Containing A true and complete History of the Lives, Last Words, and Dying Confessions of three of the most noted Criminals, that have ever made their Exit from the Stage in America, viz. Richard Barrick and John Sullivan, Highway Robbers. Together with the Dying Confession of Alexander White, a Murderer and Pirate, Who was executed at Cambridge, (New-England) on Thursday, November 18, 1784. . . . Boston: Printed and sold by E. Russell, at his Office next Door below Liberty Pole MDCCCLXXXIV. 30, [2] p., wdcts., 12mo.*

The ambitious plans of the publisher are clearly set forth in the following note: "If Encouragement is given to this Register, the other Numbers will contain (with the Assistance of several Gentlemen of the Cloth and Bar) a select and judicious Collection of all the most remarkable Trials for Murder, Treason, Rape, Sodomy, High-way Robbery, Piracy, House-breaking, Perjury, Forgery, and other Crimes and Misdemeanors committed in England and America; from 1760 to 1784 inclusive. Also the Lives, Last Words and Dying Confessions of all the most noted Criminals that can be obtained."

Early Vermont election sermons are extremely rare and, though our collection is the best of all, last year found it still lacking seven titles. This want list has now been reduced to six through the addition of Gershom C. Lyman's sermon of 1782, printed in 1784 at Windsor by Hough and Spooner. It is the earliest of this series in our collection and is also one of the first pieces of Windsor printing. The only other copies located are those in the Vermont State Library and the Vermont Historical Society, the latter imperfect. Mr. M. B. Jones, to whom we are indebted for a large part of our Vermont collection, presented this fine piece.

A much more important Vermont document, which came from the same press the following year was: "The Constitution of the State of Vermont, as revised by the Council of Censors, and Recommended for the Consideration of the People. Windsor: Printed by Hough and Spooner, Printers to the State of Vermont. M.DCC.LXXXV. 44 p., 4to.

The first Vermont constitution, printed at Hartford in 1778, had not proven satisfactory and so this revision was prepared. Before its adoption, however, it was again revised and the finally accepted document was not printed until 1786. There are six known copies (AAS. HEH. LC. MHS. UVT. VSL.) of this proposed constitution and ours is in its original wrappers as issued. On the cover appears the signature of J. Spooner, either the printer or one of his family.

The first effort made by the Canadian government to investigate the condition of the national archives and to take steps for their preservation was made in 1790 when a committee appointed for that purpose made a report to Lord Dorchester which was published in French and English the following year under the title: *Ancient French Archives or Extracts From the Minutes of Council Relating to the Records of Canada While under the Government of France. Quebec. Printed by Samuel Neilson, M.DCC.XCI. 49, 49 p., 4to.*

Though 700 copies were printed and distributed widely throughout Canada, the recent bibliography of *Canadiana* published by the Toronto Public Library could locate only the copy in the John Carter Brown Library, from which library our copy was secured on duplicate exchange. There is also a copy in the Massachusetts Historical Society and doubtless other unrecorded copies in Canada, since the volume was described by Gagnon with a facsimile of the title page. The report is largely devoted to an inventory of the manuscript French archives of the Canadian government, and so is of historical importance.

In 1789 a special committee of the Council of

the Province of Quebec delivered a report to Lord Dorchester on the state of education in the province which may well be the earliest official educational publication of Canada. It was called a "Report of a Committee of the Council on the Subject of Promoting The Means of Education. Quebec: Printed by Samuel Neilson, No. 3 in Mountain-Street. M.DCC.XC." [2] 26, [2], 26 p., 4to. This report, printed in French and English, is so rare that it does not appear in the recent Toronto Public Library bibliography of *Canadiana*, though it was described by Gagnon with a facsimile of the French title. There is a copy in the Massachusetts Historical Society, from which we secured ours in exchange.

The first cookbook by a native American author was Amelia Simmons' "American Cookery, or the art of dressing Viands, Fish, Poultry and Vegetables, and the best modes of making Pastes, Puffs, Pies, Tarts, Puddings, Custards and Preserves, and all kinds of Cakes, from the imperial Plumb to plain Cake. Adapted to this country, and all grades of life. By Amelia Simmons, an American Orphan. Published according to act of Congress. Hartford: Printed by Hudson & Goodwin. For the author. 1796. 47, [1] p., 8vo. Previous to this year we were compelled to be content with a shabby copy of this rarity with part of its title page missing but now a fortunate purchase has given us a perfect copy in its original wrappers, uncut and with the final leaf of errata which was printed after the work had been for sale for some time and which appears to be missing from the two other known copies (CHS. NYPL.). This booklet is No. 17 in Mr. Lincoln's American cookbook bibliography, all of the earlier titles being reprints of English works. Of these earlier cookbooks recorded by Mr. Lincoln, seven are known only from advertisements and the others are all in our collection of American cookery.

If the narrative of John Vandeleur can be believed, it is one of the most interesting of early books on the

Pacific Northwest. Its many editions, and Sabin describes over two dozen, are all of great rarity and whether it is true or not, it is a fascinating story of Indian captivity. Though earlier accounts of Vandeleur's adventures appeared in the otherwise fraudulent travels of Don Alonso Decalves, the first to be separately issued under his own name as author was the following: "A History of the Voyages and Adventures of John Van Delure, Giving an account of his being left on the N.W. coast of America [in 1784], by the misconduct of the ship's company; where he lived almost seven years, and married the daughter of an Indian Chief. His conversion while in that western world, and the conversion of the Indian Chief, and his whole family. Together with his return to Holland. Written by his own hand, and sent to his uncle in Philadelphia, in the year 1796. Montpelier, Published by Wright and Sibley. 1812." 96 p., 12mo. There are two other known copies, one in the Newberry Library and another in the Huntington Library, from which we secured our copy on duplicate exchange.

THE IMMORTAL GEORGE

Every year sees a number of additions to our important George Washington collection, and from those recently received, three broadsides have been selected as typical. The first has the caption title: His Excellency General Washington's Last Legacy. [Fishkill? or Poughkeepsie? 1783]. This is undoubtedly one of the first separate printings of Washington's letter from Newburgh, June 18, 1783, addressed to the governors of the various states, in which he announced his resignation from the command of the army and, at the same time, left the new states his legacy of council for their future conduct as a nation. The following inscription in a contemporary hand on the verso of the broadside helps us to date it: "D. Larned's The gift of Mr. J. Dusenbury Peekskill Octr. 4th 83."

From this inscription we may hazard a guess that this edition, which is without date or imprint, may have been printed either at Fishkill or Poughkeepsie, New York, the printing towns nearest to Peekskill. On the other hand, this may have been the first official printing, in which case it might have come from the press of Isaac Collins of Trenton, New Jersey, since he was the official state printer at the time and Congress was then in session in Princeton. In any case, it is a very rare broadside, not in Evans, and no other copy seems to be recorded.

The second of our new Washington broadsides is the familiar Farewell Address. It has the caption title: "Address of the late General George Washington, To the Citizens of the United States, on declining a re-election to the Office of President." It is dated at the end: "United States, 17th [i.e., 19th] Sept. 1796" and has the imprint: "Hartford: Printed by Hudson and Goodwin." [1800]. Though issued four years after the first printing, this memorial edition is a rarity and, for its day, a handsome piece of printing. There are other copies in the Boston Public Library, John Carter Brown Library, and the Library of Congress.

Our last Washington piece is a large memorial handkerchief (26 by 23½ in.) printed in brown ink on silk by "Jn^o Macfie & Co Glasgow." about the year 1800. A large part of the center of the design is occupied by an allegorical group gathered round a memorial shaft with a very bad portrait of Washington on its front panel. At the right stands a weeping angel and at the left a bewhiskered and rather Scottish appearing clergyman, with a dejected general bowing respectfully behind him. In front of the monument, an American flag has been carelessly thrown on the ground by a tired sailor who lies sprawled across it, apparently very much bored by the whole affair. In the four corners of the handkerchief are the eulogistic remarks of the great men of the day, while at the top appears the caption: "Sacred to the memory of the late great & good George

Washington, First President of the Thirteen United States of America, and Respectfully Addressed to the People of New Hampshire . . ." Thus we see how a thrifty Scotch manufacturer of 1800 made an honest shilling by providing our ancestors with an appropriate means of drying their tears when they contemplated the loss of their national hero. We are very happy indeed that Mr. Albert Farnsworth of Worcester cared to add this very rare and interesting handkerchief to our excellent collection of historical textiles.

ASSOCIATION BOOKS

It is seldom that we have placed in our care a volume of as high association interest as that I am about to describe. It was deposited in our library a year ago today by our good friend Mr. William Vail Kellen and we may be permitted to hope that it will never leave our shelves.

In 1590 an English barrister, William West, of the Inner Temple, published a manual of English law which was destined to be the most popular legal text of its day. He gave it the quaint title: . . . "Symboleography. Which may be termed, The Art, or Description, of Instruments and Presidents." Though it ran through a half dozen editions, it is now very rare and of the final edition, the first part of which was printed in 1632 and the second in 1627, the Short Title Catalogue could find no copy remaining in Great Britain and succeeded in locating only the copies in the Huntington Library and the Library of Congress. The copy deposited by Mr. Kellen is in splendid condition and is preserved in a handsome modern morocco binding.

The very special interest of this particular copy is that it has on its title page the exceedingly rare autograph of Sir Henry Vane the Younger and from the date of the volume we may be permitted to believe that it was this very copy which the famous young Puritan statesman brought with him to Massachusetts in 1635

and which he used in administering the affairs of the colony during his short and stormy career as governor in 1636 and 1637. Sir Harry made some mistakes and left many enemies behind him when he returned to a more important field in the home country in 1637, but we needs must honor his memory for his staunch support of Anne Hutchinson and his loyal friendship for Roger Williams. He apparently bore no ill will towards the colony which had ousted him from office and sent him home without its blessing, for, in later years, he was ever the friend of the struggling settlements in the new world.

We have in our collections not only an example of every bookplate ever used by a president of the United States but also several volumes which they have presented to us as well as a number of books from their own private libraries. Among them are books bearing the autographs of Washington, Jefferson and the Adamases as well as others, including the signatures of presidents Hoover, Coolidge and Roosevelt. This year we secured as gifts from the estates of five more presidents books which they once owned.

The earliest of these is Charles Runnington's "Treatise on the action of ejectionment." London, 1781 and it has on its fly leaf the inscription: "Ex Libris Johan: Tyler. 1789." Inside the front cover is the printed book label of his son President John Tyler and beneath the first owner's signature is the following autographed inscription by another of his distinguished descendants: "This book belonged to the library of Judge John Tyler, of Greenway, descended to his son President John Tyler, and was one of the few books of his library preserved from the ravages of the Northern troops at his residence 'Sherwood Forest,' Charles City Co., Virginia. Lyon G. Tyler. March 3, 1930." On the verso of the same fly leaf is the following presentation inscription of his widow, Mrs. Sue Ruffin Tyler: "Presented to the library of the American Antiquarian Society in honor of the friendships that existed

between Dr. Tyler and certain sons of Massachusetts. Nov. 22, 1935." In an accompanying letter, Mrs. Tyler speaks of her husband's friendship with "those liberal minded and hearted Massachusetts historians and genealogists." From this expression of friendship and appreciation we would like to assume that we northerners are in part forgiven for the depredations of our marauding soldiers during the campaign in Virginia.

Another presidential volume which came as the gift of the family was a copy of *The United States Consular System: a manual for consuls*. Washington, 1856, which is still beautifully preserved in its elaborately tooled morocco binding which bears on its side the legend: "Franklin Pierce. President of the United States." Accompanying the volume is a charming letter of presentation from the president's niece, Miss Susan H. Pierce of Hillsborough, New Hampshire.

James T. Fields' *Yesterdays with authors*. Boston, 1874, contains the armorial bookplate of President Chester A. Arthur and came as the gift of his son, Mr. Chester Alan Arthur, Jr. Then there is a copy of George Haven Putnam's *The question of copyright*. New York, 1891, which has on its title the signature of Benjamin Harrison. His autograph appears again on the fly leaf and has beneath it the inscription: "Presented to the American Antiquarian Society with the compliments of Mary Lord Harrison (Mrs. Benjamin Harrison) January 24th 1936." A friendly letter of presentation from Mrs. Harrison accompanies the volume. From the library of President Harding we have secured his copy of *Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation*. New York, 1920. On the fly leaf is the presentation inscription: "To W. G. Harding from his friend Chas. C. Peirce." The volume, with an accompanying letter of presentation came from Mr. C. D. Schaffner, representing the Harding estate.

MANUSCRIPTS

The Dwight Foster family of Worcester and Boston has played an important role in the affairs of the state and nation. The manuscripts of the family accumulated over the years and were divided and scattered, as the later generations moved away from the old home. But the manuscripts have returned! First, in 1911, the Society received from Alfred Dwight Foster the journal and letterbooks kept at Philadelphia and Washington by his great-grandfather, Dwight Foster, Congressman and Senator from 1793 to 1803, together with other family papers. Then, in 1934, Dwight Foster of Boston, son of Alfred Dwight Foster, gave us a large collection of early correspondence extending from 1765 to 1828. This year, Miss Harriet E. Clarke of Worcester, great-granddaughter of Senator Dwight Foster, presented a smaller but no less important collection of early family papers dating back to the middle of the eighteenth century; and now Dwight Foster has sent us another very large collection of some thousands of letters and business papers of his grandfather, Hon. Dwight Foster, prominent lawyer in Worcester until 1864 and of Boston until his death in 1884. He was Attorney General of Massachusetts during the Civil War and Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court from 1866 to 1869. His papers from 1848 to 1864 are particularly rich in Worcester material and those of later date have state-wide importance. As this report is being written, we learn that another descendent, Dwight Foster Dunn, who died only this month, has left us a collection of ten Foster family miniatures as well as the oil portrait of another of his ancestors, Rev. Thaddeus MacCarty, the Revolutionary patriot preacher of Worcester. These and other Foster family portraits will eventually be placed in our care, thus once more bringing under one roof the archives of this distinguished family, so that future historians may study their achievements from the reassembled papers and portraits of the

family and from them extract much of value for the history of the state and nation.

It is interesting to note, in looking over these old papers, that for several generations the names of Dwight Foster and Alfred Dwight Foster have alternated from father to son, just as in the case of the old Long Island Dutch family of Wyckoff, the names Peter and Joseph alternated for at least a half dozen generations.

Dr. George Watson Cole has just sent us eleven packing cases containing the lifetime accumulation of his own published and unpublished historical and bibliographical manuscripts. This collection contains a wealth of scholarly information not to be found elsewhere. When placed with Dr. Cole's other papers in our Manuscript Division, scholars in the fields of American History and English Literature will find it a veritable mine of precious metal in which they will do well to delve.

BOOKPLATES

Our bookplate collection has continued to grow steadily this year, largely through the enthusiasm and industry of Mr. Herbert E. Lombard, its founder. Mr. F. C. Blank has added many plates of his own design during the year and a valuable little collection of proofs and variant states of the plates of E. D. French was generously presented by Mr. Frank S. Hatch of Longmeadow in spite of the fact that he kept no duplicates of them for his own excellent French collection. A collector is generous indeed when he robs himself to help our collection approach perfection. It is significant that after searching through a list of hundreds of early American bookplates, mostly dating before 1820, which was sent to us by an English dealer, we failed to find a single one not already in our collection.

There has been much speculation as to who engraved the famous unsigned bookplate of George Washington.

W. J. Hardy, in his "Book Plates," London, 1893, p. 119, assumed that the Washington plate must be the work of an American engraver, though he admits that it "bears a strong resemblance to a plate of one Richard Washington, engraved in England by Bickham about the middle of the eighteenth century." What Hardy evidently did not know is that Richard Washington was undoubtedly a distant relative of George and was in 1765 and later years, George Washington's Bristol business representative. Also, the engraver Bickham is known to have engraved at least one American bookplate, that of James Morris of New York in 1747. From a comparison of our original George Washington bookplate with a photograph of the Richard Washington plate by Bickham, the original of which is privately owned in Philadelphia, it seems altogether possible that they may be by the same artist. The design is almost identical, the owners of the two plates were business associates and probably relatives, the engraver had executed at least one other similar American commission. What would have been more natural than for George Washington to ask Richard to have his own plate copied by its engraver for use in the extensive library of his cousin at Mount Vernon? The circumstances and the decided similarity of the two plates would certainly incline one to suspect that the George Washington plate might have been engraved in England by the British engraver Bickham.

OUR FRIENDS COME TO THE RESCUE

As in former years, a small group of our friends has continued to enrich our resources through the generous gifts of large collections of valuable material.

Mr. Wallace H. Cathcart has added 160 pieces to the excellent Shaker collection which he has already placed in our care; and Mr. Joseph M. Murphy has sent us over 6500 pieces of school and college journalism to add to the thousands of pieces sent in previous years.

Over 3000 pieces of philatelic literature has come to us from a variety of sources and Mr. George T. Watkins has continued to build up our collection of western history and books on the Mormons.

Mr. Charles H. Taylor allowed us this year to sweep his shelves clean of all their years' accumulations of some hundreds of books relating to Boston. No week ever passes without the arrival of at least one interesting and varied carton of new and old material from his office. Ancient books relating to the sea, new books and review copies we could not afford to buy, lithographs, sheet music, old newspaper files and this year over 3000 stereoscopic views in addition to thousands of press photographs, came from this generous source.

Mr. Herbert E. Lombard, one of our most constant visitors, seldom comes to the library without a bundle or two of books and manuscripts which he has induced his friends to give to us, and his pockets are apt to bulge with fat envelopes full of new bookplates for our collection. Mr. Grenville H. Norcross is one of my most faithful correspondents but instead of sending long letters he ships almost daily parcel post packages of books and many a first edition or important bit of poetry, fiction or biography comes from them to gladden our shelves.

Much useful material, new and old, has come to us during the year from Mr. Arthur P. Rugg, Dr. Homer Gage, Mr. T. Hovey Gage, Mr. Charles Goodspeed, Mr. T. W. Streeter, and Mr. M. B. Jones, some of whose major gifts are mentioned elsewhere in this report. We are also much indebted for valuable gifts to Mr. Henry R. Wagner, Mr. Wilbur Macey Stone, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, Mr. Charles A. Place, Mr. George W. Haynes, Mr. Victor Hugo Paltsits, Mr. Thomas O. Mabbott, Mr. Edward F. Coffin, and Mr. Douglas C. McMurtrie, whose important contributions to the history of journalism and printing come in surprising numbers each year. The less numerous but no less welcome gifts of our other friends

have been individually acknowledged, though space does not permit their mention here. The good will of a library, as that of a business concern, is its best asset and our friends have stood by us loyally during these depression years and have seen to it that our collections have grown in value and importance even though we have had a pitifully small income for the administration and upbuilding of this great library.

THE CARE OF THE LIBRARY

The most lifeless and uninteresting body of water in the world is the Dead Sea and it got that way because, no matter how large a volume of fresh water pours into it, it has no proper outlet. The rapidly accumulating collections of this library are in a similar case, for without a proper staff to handle them, they will back up and stagnate instead of flowing on to the shelves, from thence to be piped by way of the catalogue, to the thirsty readers.

The work of one cataloguer can make little impression on our 20,000 annual accessions and much less hope to make any considerable dent in the untouched accumulations of a century. Thousands of important books, pamphlets, periodical articles, maps, prints, and manuscripts in this grand old library could spring to life and usefulness if they could join their brethren in our catalogue.

The most important new titles, however, have been catalogued during the year and considerable progress has been made in cataloguing our early pamphlets and first editions. Incoming lithographs, prints and music have been properly cared for as received. Through the temporary aid of the WPA, an assistant has been provided for the sorting and shelving of the year's accumulation of manuscripts. As a by-product of the federal newspaper cataloguing project, our great newspaper collection has been almost completely arranged and catalogued.

The bindery has, once more, done a splendid year's work. The current binding of newspapers has been kept up to date and hundreds of worn-out bindings have been repaired or replaced. Many maps and prints, broadsides and newspapers have been mounted or preserved with transparent silk. There are, however, many rare and valuable volumes, as well as periodical and newspaper files which need binding and which must inevitably deteriorate for the want of a proper protecting cover. We need more binders, just as we need more assistants in every department of the library if our collections are to be properly preserved and made available to the students of this or future generations.

Though your librarian's spare time has been largely taken up with the completion of Sabin's Dictionary, he has found time to deliver an occasional address in Worcester as well as one at New York University, to write an article or two and do a book review now and then.

The library staff has worked hard this year, as it needs must to keep its head above water. Incoming material has been handled rapidly and competently and has been made available as far as possible. The growing popularity of the library has added to the work of the reading room which has meant that all of the staff members have given largely of their time in order that the reading room service be kept up to its customary standard of efficiency. Our staff is not only much smaller than that of any other large library but it is inadequately paid. The depression cut of ten per cent is still in operation and that is a very real hardship in view of the rapidly mounting cost of living. In more than one case the pay received is not a living wage. We may lose one or more members of our staff at any time and if we do, no professionally trained librarians will take their places because of the low wage scale. The library profession is an exact science requiring one to two years of graduate study and cer-

tainly a scholarly library such as this should take on no new employees who have not had professional training. Several sorely needed cataloguers have already been dropped because of the depression; others of the staff will surely leave unless conditions improve.

The shelves of this library are, in most departments, crowded to capacity; the work rooms are inadequate; the book purchase fund is discouragingly small; much of the collection is in need of better binding and protection; the staff is inadequate and not well paid; the publication fund is much too small; new furniture and equipment are needed. The difficulty is that the financial support of this Society has not kept pace with the growth of its collections or the increase in its usefulness to the public.

What the American Antiquarian Society needs is the farsighted assistance of a generous and scholarly man of means who realizes the possibilities of this great institution of learning. Its endowment would make his name live forever among the scholars of America and would open up for their use the rich resources of this national library of American history.

Respectfully submitted,

R. W. G. VAIL,

Librarian

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