

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

THE USE OF THE LIBRARY

ONE day a few years ago a distinguished European historian was walking along the main street of Worcester on his way to the Antiquarian Society when he discovered that his shoelace had become untied. He bent over to repair the damage but found that he could not reach so far, for he had lost a leg at Verdun. A roughly dressed laborer happened along just then and, seeing the dilemma, dropped at once to his knee, quickly tied the shoelace and went his way without a word. We are glad that this act of unobtrusive kindness, which was so greatly appreciated by our visiting scholar, happened to him in Worcester and we like to think that, when he finally reached our Library, the same spirit of quiet helpfulness greeted him here.

We feel that we *are* doing a good job when we receive a letter like this: "I want to express appreciation for your courteous help. . . . We discovered that each one of us had found your library exceptionally friendly." Another reader tells us: "It is not the first time that we have taken advantage of your facilities, and the courtesy and patience with which our requests have always been met put us deeply in your debt." Still another reader, speaking of his recently published book, says: "It would not have been half as good had I not had the rich resources of your library open to me." Such praise makes us eager to do everything in our power to serve the scholars of this and foreign lands as best we may, and to make quickly available to them the materials they need to answer their varied and interesting questions.

One of our visitors recently came to us for help in

identifying an early American portrait she had acquired. The only hint as to its identity was a newspaper clipping pasted on its back, describing an early New England wedding. In spite of the fact that no names appeared in the poem, we were able positively to identify the portrait through the use of this slender clue. One of our Boston readers secured from us the oldest American recipe for clam chowder for use at an old-fashioned dinner party. A lady from Ohio came in search of early American etiquette books, while a Harvard student wished to learn how novelists depicted the American gentleman in their fiction prior to 1865.

One writer, whose given name is Rollo, came to examine our collection of early editions of the famous Rollo Books, another was in search of the humor to be found in the David Crockett almanacs. A New Jersey student wished to investigate the influence of Voltaire on early American culture, and a scholar from the University of Colorado was successful in finding material for his thesis on the ideals of American hero-worship between 1776 and 1861.

The research director of a famous motion picture company visited us in search of colonial Pennsylvania interiors to use in one of his sets, and another student wished to know all about the various American world's fairs. From Los Angeles came an author looking for material on British East Florida, from Pennsylvania a historian in search of colonial Nova Scotian newspapers. We suggested the name for a new college dormitory to a worried executive, and helped a bright young lady in her search for the present owners of books from the library of George Washington. A friend of hers found that we had a number of early views of Mount Vernon which were new to him, and an investigator from Ohio came to study the technique of the early watchmaker.

A half dozen of the leading American historical novelists have made frequent use of our facilities.

They have come looking for New England Tory material, the early days of the circus, the home life of the Iroquois Indians, for a contemporary picture of a figurehead carver at work, for the narratives of American captives in Algiers, the seafaring life of a colonial New England town and for innumerable details of costume, dialect, song, architecture, and the rigging of ships.

One reader asked us to help him find the earliest native America hymns, another wanted the writings of a famous singing school teacher, while a well-known bibliographer found here hundreds of titles for his bibliography of early secular American music. A Quakeress from Pennsylvania wished to see early American peace literature, and an author from Natchez found much on the history of that city which was not available there. A man on Long Island wrote to find the history of a ship, the original figurehead of which graces his lawn; one of our members wished to know something about the rarity and importance of an early Australian manuscript newspaper; and an authority on early children's books wrote for the original version of the story of Red Riding Hood in which both the grandmother and the heroine were eaten up by the big, bad wolf. A leading British bookplate collector spent happy hours making notes on our tens of thousands of American bookplates and a representative of the National Library of Ireland came looking for Irish-American historical material and stayed to gossip about our mutual friends among the famous contemporary Irish authors.

ACCESSIONS

As in the past, our most important accessions, except for newspapers, have come as the gifts of our generous friends. Though our accessions for this year are only about two-thirds as numerous as last year, we hope that their quality will make up for their lack of numbers. After all, a single lion's whelp is worth more than

a thousand guinea pigs. This report will tell you about some of our lions' whelps. We have, during the year, added to the library:

Books	3092
Pamphlets	3892
Prints, maps, manuscripts, etc.	1721
Unbound newspapers	924

9629

This year's accessions give us a total of 237,989 bound volumes and 381,141 pamphlets, or a grand total of 619,130 titles in the library, exclusive of manuscripts, prints, maps and broadsides.

NEWSPAPERS

Never in any one year of the Society's history have we secured so many rare and important western and southern newspaper files as in the year just passed. Pioneer California papers, with their news of the gold rush and the sudden transition from a sleepy Spanish agrarian country to an industrial community infused with the rush and enthusiasm of Yankee vigor, are of the greatest historical importance and rarity. Four of these pioneer files were secured this year, two of them being especially interesting because of their rarity. For the point of view of the old regime, we have the Spanish paper, *El Nuevo Mundo* for its first year. This San Francisco weekly began in 1864 and ran for only four years. Less than a dozen scattering issues are known in other libraries and none of them for the year of its founding, which we now have on our shelves. *The Humboldt Times*, published in its early days in Arcata and Union and later in Eureka, ran from 1854 to 1909, but no copies of its first two years have survived and only the California State Library could previously boast even a partial file for 1856 and 1857. These two important years are now in our collection, as well as a scattering run for the next two years.

Turning our history book back a few pages, we find the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century settlement of Ohio just getting under way. It too had its frontier newspapers, all of them of great rarity and historical significance. The third newspaper published in this state was the *Western Spy* which began in 1799 and ran for many years. We now have the first five years of this important journal, the only other file being in the Ohio Historical and Philosophical Society. Another outstanding Cincinnati paper of the pioneer period had the unusual name of *Liberty Hall* and flourished for many years, beginning with 1804. We now have the unusually long run from 1806 to 1817, only one other really good file and three or four fair files being known for this period. Only one volume of the Cincinnati *Spirit of the West* was published, covering the years 1814-1815. This we now have, the only other file being in the Cincinnati Public Library. The first newspaper in Canton was the *Ohio Repository* which ran from 1815 until a few years ago. Our file for the years 1818 through 1820 is the only one in any public library, the only other file being in the possession of the newspaper itself.

Early southern newspaper files are even rarer than those of the middle and far west. We may, therefore, congratulate ourselves on securing the nearly unique file of the first year of the Frankfort, Kentucky, *Western World* for 1806-1807. An even more valuable file is the nearly complete run, one of two known, of the Lexington, Kentucky *Reporter* for 1808 to 1820, a pioneer paper of unusual merit. Our new file of the Charleston *Carolina Weekly Messenger* for 1807 through 1809 is unique, except for a few scattering issues at Harvard. Southern newspaper files covering the period of the Civil War are of the greatest rarity and importance and so we are happy to have secured the best file outside of South Carolina of the *Charleston Mercury* for 1857 through 1865.

It is unfortunate that the pleasant custom of printing

a versified carrier's address for the newsboy to give to his customers on the first of the year has gone out of fashion. Many of these charming broadsides were not only attractive examples of the art of printing but were written by famous men of letters. One of the finest recently added to our large collection is: "The carriers of Porcupine's Gazette, to it's friends; on the commencement of the year 1798." With a woodcut of the porcupine above the title and with a charming border around it, this really excellent bit of verse is most attractive and is especially interesting since it is more than likely that it was written by William Cobbett, the editor of the Gazette, himself. The flavor of it may be tasted by a perusal of the opening stanza:

Since I the news-boy's toilsome trade profest,
I've brought you, Master, many a pleasant jest;
Full many a sober truth have spread abroad,
Of foreign insults, and domestic fraud.

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

CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, EL NUEVO MUNDO, 1864
SANT FRANCISCO HERALD, 1856
SANT FRANCISCO, WEEKLY BULLETIN, 1856-1857
UNION, HUMBOLDT TIMES, 1856-1857

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD, LOCOMOTIVE, 1867-1879
HARTFORD, RELIGIOUS INQUIRER, 1821-1824

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GEORGETOWN, FEDERAL REPUBLICAN, 1813-1814
WASHINGTON REPUBLICAN, 1822
WASHINGTON, UNIVERSAL GAZETTE, 1804-1810

KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT, WESTERN WORLD, 1806-1807
LEXINGTON, REPORTER, 1808-1820

MAINE

AUGUSTA AGE, 1835-1838
 BELFAST, MAINE WORKING MEN'S ADVOCATE, 1830-1832
 HALLOWELL GAZETTE, 1816, 1820
 KENNEBECK JOURNAL, 1844-1865
 KENNEBUNK, WEEKLY VISITER, 1809-1810

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, AMERICAN TRAVELLER, 1846-1870
 BOSTON DAILY MAIL, 1842-1843
 BOSTON, EVERY OTHER SATURDAY, 1885
 BOSTON, FLAG OF OUR UNION, 1865, 1870
 BOSTON PILOT, 1847
 BOSTON, YANKEE, 1814
 PITTSFIELD, BERKSHIRE REPORTER, 1810-1811
 SALEM OBSERVER, 1841-1842
 SPRINGFIELD, HAMPSHIRE FEDERALIST, 1806-1807, 1810-1811

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE PATRIOT, 1869-1870
 PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, 1814-1815

NEW YORK

ALBANY, ATLAS-ARGUS, 1859
 ALBANY, FARMERS' MECHANICS & WORKINGMEN'S ADVOCATE, 1830-1831
 ALBANY REGISTER, 1806-1808
 NEW YORK, CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE AND JOURNAL, 1838-1842
 NEW YORK, CHRISTIAN ENQUIRER, 1825
 NEW-YORKER CRIMINAL-ZEITUNG, 1859-1860
 NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 1843-1846
 NEW YORK, MERCURY, 1833-1835
 NEW YORK SPECTATOR, 1831-1832
 NEW YORK, STATESMAN, 1822
 NEW YORK WEEKLY MESSENGER, 1833-1835
 PENN YAN, BUNKER HILL CLUB, 1840-1841
 SALEM, WASHINGTON REGISTER, 1816-1819
 SHERBURNE, REPUBLICAN MESSENGER, 1810

OHIO

CANTON, OHIO REPOSITORY, 1818-1820
 CHILlicothe, SCIOTO GAZETTE, 1800-1802
 CHILlicothe, WEEKLY RECORDER, 1814-1815
 CINCINNATI, LIBERTY HALL, 1806-1817
 CINCINNATI, SPIRIT OF THE WEST, 1814-1815
 CINCINNATI, WESTERN SPY, 1799-1803

PENNSYLVANIA

- PHILADELPHIA AURORA, 1813
PHILADELPHIA, CAREY'S UNITED STATES RECORDER, 1798
PHILADELPHIA, COLUMBIAN OBSERVER, 1824
PHILADELPHIA, CONSTITUTIONAL DIARY, 1799-1800
PHILADELPHIA, DEMOCRATIC PRESS (daily), 1807-1811
PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE, 1802
PITTSBURGH RECORDER, 1822-1824

SOUTH CAROLINA

- CHARLESTON, CAROLINA WEEKLY MESSENGER, 1807-1809
CHARLESTON MERCURY, 1857-1865

VERMONT

- BELLOWS FALLS INTELLIGENCER, 1822-1827

VIRGINIA

- NORFOLK, AMERICAN BEACON, 1816-1817

AMERICAN PRINTING ANNIVERSARIES

This year is being celebrated by printers and historians of the press in Mexico and New England, for it marks the four-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Juan Pablos' press in Mexico City and the three-hundredth anniversary of the setting up of Stephen Day's press at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Collectors of early printing treasure even an imperfect fragment of any book printed in Mexico up to the year 1600 or in New England to 1700. We have never tried to vie with our friendly rival, the John Carter Brown Library, in the collecting of Mexican and other South and Central American incunabula, but we do have many good examples from these early presses. In the field of North American early printing, however, our collection has few rivals. Of Cambridge imprints before 1700 we now have 104 examples while our nearest rival has ten less.

It is particularly appropriate, in this anniversary year, that our collection of early printing should have been notably enriched by the generous gifts of two of our members. From Mr. Henry R. Wagner we have

received, in more or less perfect condition, examples of the following volumes of Mexican incunabula:

- MOLINA, ALONSO DE. *Confessionario breue*. Mexico: Antonio de Espinosa, 1565. Medina 48. BM, JCB, NEWBERRY.
- FERNANDEZ, BENITO. *Doctrina mixteca*. Mexico: Pedro Ocharte, 1567. Medina 53. Sociedad Mexicana de Historia y Geografia.
- ANUNCIACION, JUAN DE LA. *Doctrina Christia*. Mexico: Pedro Balli, 1575. Medina 69. BM, JCB, NYPL, U.CAL.
- MOLINA, ALONSO DE. *Confessionario mayor*. Mexico: Pedro Balli, 1578. Medina 86. JCB.
- CONSTITUCIONES ORDINIS FRATRUM EREMITARUM SANCTI AUGUSTINI. Mexico: Petrus Ocharte, 1587. Medina 105. Agreda, Medina.
- RINCON, ANTONIO DEL. *Arte Mexicana*. Mexico: Pedro Balli, 1595. Medina 135. BM, JCB, NYPL, NEWBERRY, U.CAL.
- BAPTISTA, JUAN. *Confessionario*. Mexico: Melchoir Ocharte, 1599. Medina 152. JCB, MEDINA, NYPL, NEWBERRY. (AAS has two variants).
- BAPTISTA, JUAN. *Advertencias. Para los confesores*. Mexico: M. Ocharte, 1600. 2 parts. Medina 163. BM, JCB, MEDINA, NYPL, NEWBERRY, U.CAL.

Our collection of New England incunabula has been notably improved by Mr. James M. Hunnewell's gift of his father's copy of William Hubbard's "Narrative of the troubles with the Indians in New-England." Boston: John Foster, 1677. This was the Brinley copy, no. 393, and is preserved in a beautiful crushed levant binding by Bedford. It does not contain the rare first American engraved map of New England but, by rare good luck, we have had for many years an example of this map which we will now have inserted in the Brinley-Hunnewell copy, thus giving us a perfect example of one of the most precious of early New England books. Our other copy of the first edition of Hubbard contains scores of typographical variations from our new copy. The unusual opportunity to have the two variants side by side for study and comparison will be appreciated by future scholars.

A CHOICE PACKET OF PURITAN BOOKS

Of these five Puritan books, all by authors famous on both sides of the Atlantic, the first three have been

presented by Mr. Robert F. Seybolt, the last two by Mr. Matt B. Jones, to whom we return our thanks. The names of Hooker, Preston, Davenport and Shepard need no introduction to the student of New England colonial history. Their writings will always be welcome in such a collection as ours. The packet contains:

The breast-plate of faith and love . . . by . . . John Preston. The second edition, corrected. [Preface by Richard Sibs and John Davenport]. London: W.I. for Nicolas Bourne, 1630. STC 20209. Lambeth Pallace, Cambridge, Captain Jaggard, HEN. Bound with this is his: *Three sermons*. For William Turner and Henry Curteyn, 1631.

The saints qualification. By John Preston. [Preface by Richard Sibs and John Davenport]. London: R.B. for Nicholas Bourne, 1633. STC 20262. Bodleian, Cambridge, Sir R. L. Harmsworth, Winchester College, HEN. (We also have the second edition, 1634.) Bound with this is his: *The new creature*. Same imprint.

The saints daily exercise. By John Preston. The ninth edition, corrected. [Preface by Richard Sibs and John Davenport] London: Elizabeth Purlow for Nicholas Bourne, 1634. STC 20259. NYPL. We also have the third edition, 1629 and the eighth edition, 1633.

The soules humiliation. [By Thomas Hooker]. The second edition. London: I. L. for Andrew Crooke, 1638. STC 13729. British Museum, Bodleian.

Theses Sabbaticae. Or, the doctrine of the Sabbath. By Thomas Shepard. London: T.R. and E.M. for John Rothwell, 1650. Second title: *The change of the Sabbath*. London: [by Joseph Caryl] for John Rothwell, 1650.

"PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS"

It is significant that the first volume printed in North America was a Psalm book, for religious observance meant much to our ancestors during the first two hundred years of our history. From this first modest and poorly printed volume of 1640, a long line of American psalmody and hymnology reaches on down through the centuries to our own time. No study of our cultural and religious history can be complete without an examination of our early religious songs

and so we have industriously collected them, to the number of several thousands of volumes, until we now have the most extensive collection in any library. To this we have now added the Bishop Robert Westly Peach collection of American church music, numbering over 6,000 titles. Bishop Peach (Nov. 27, 1863–Dec. 23, 1936) was professor of ecclesiastical history and Christian evidences of the Reformed Episcopal Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and presiding bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church at the time of his death. His collection of the literature of church music, which he had spent many years in assembling, was the largest in private hands and we are indeed fortunate to be able to add it to our own extensive collection in the same field.

One unusually rare early music book was secured this year to make complete our collection of the writings of the famous eighteenth century singing master, William Billings. It is his: "Music in miniature, containing a collection of psalm tunes of various metres, set in score. Engraved by B. Johnson. Boston: Printed for and sold by the author. 1779." 32 p., 8vo. Though Evans 16205 locates no copy, it is to be found in AAS, BPL, LC and YALE. Other newly acquired titles include Isaac Watts' "Hymns." Boston: Kneeland and Adams, 1767, with Boston engraved music at the end, dated 1755; Watts' "Psalms." Norwich: Green & Spooner, 1773; and a German edition of Martin Luther's Psalter. Baltimore: Samuel Saur, 1796.

Our excellent collection of the American editions of the Episcopal Prayer Book has lacked until this year the extremely rare and historically important preliminary edition containing the changes proposed at the Philadelphia convention of 1785 but never adopted. This proposed Prayer Book of 1786, though not accepted by the church, ranks as the first American edition and so must come first in any collection. It was printed in Philadelphia by Hall and Sellers and is exceedingly rare.

WHAT A YOUNG PURITAN OUGHT TO KNOW

It is not at all surprising that our first popular treatises on gynecology and obstetrics should have led a shy and furtive existence. In spite of the fact that such topics were as interesting then as now, the eighteenth and early nineteenth century Americans frowned on the popular dissemination of information regarding the facts of life, now an accepted part of the education of every youth and maiden. There was, however, one group of treatises which had considerable popularity for a century and a quarter but which is little known and seldom met with today. All of these four or five similar works were attributed to no less an authority than Aristotle, his name being used to camouflage the real author and to lend respectability to these popular chapbooks. They appear to have originated in London in the late seventeenth century and to have migrated to America in the middle eighteenth century, their popularity continuing almost to the present time, the last recorded edition having appeared as late as 1883.

The most popular of these tracts was "Aristotle's complete masterpiece, displaying the secrets of nature in the generation of man." Almost none of its early publishers had the hardihood to print their names on the title pages and some of them used an entirely fictitious imprint. This is true of the unique copy which we recently secured, which, though probably printed in Connecticut in the latter half of the eighteenth century, bears the imprint: "London: Printed and sold by Zechariah Feeling. MDCCLXVI." Several editions were "Printed for the Company of Flying Stationers," in other words, for sale by the Yankee pedlars who did so much to bring needles, tin pans, gossip and culture to the back settlements. We have located 19 editions, dating from 1694 to 1820, 13 of which are in our collection.

"Aristotle's compleat and experienc'd midwife" ran through at least a half dozen editions from 1700 to

1799, including one edition in Pennsylvania Dutch, one London and one American edition being in this library. "The problems of Aristotle . . . touching the state of man's body," was first published in London in 1597 and also appeared in at least six editions, of which we have one English and one American edition. "Aristotle's last legacy, unfolding the mysteries of nature in the generation of man," had at least seven editions, of which we again have one English and one American copy. These four tracts were collected in one volume under the title of "The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher," and, in this form, proved extremely popular if we may judge by the fourteen editions located. The first of these collected editions appeared in London about 1752 and the last as late as 1883. Ten of them, including the first English and eight American editions, are in our collection.

Of the four titles, the work on midwifery is the only one which is not a repetition of the information to be found in the other three parts. Nearly all of the tracts were illustrated with crude woodcuts, informative but with little anatomical accuracy. The text is an amusing mixture of sensible advice, pious admonition, ribald verse, popular superstition and a very little medical knowledge. That they were both interesting and useful in their day, we cannot doubt; that they played an important part in the development of our growing country, we may be sure.

ARISTOTLE'S MASTERPIECE

Aristotle's masterpiece: or, the secrets of generation displayed in all the parts thereof . . . Printed for W.B.: London, 1694. 8vo. BM.

Aristotle's master-piece: compleated, in two parts . . . Printed for D.P.: London, [1710]. 154 p., 12mo. BM.

Aristotle's compleat master piece, in three parts: displaying the secrets of nature in the generation of man. Regularly digested into chapters and sections, rendering it far more useful and easy than any yet extant. To which is added. A treasure of health; or, the family physician; being choice and approved remedies for all the several distempers incident to human bodies. The twenty fourth

- edition. [London:] Printed and sold by the booksellers, 1742. 144 p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. AAS.
- Aristotle's complete master-piece, in three parts; [etc., as above] The thirtieth edition. London: Printed and sold by Zechariah Feeling. MDCCLXVI. 140 p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. The imprint is entirely fictitious. This edition was obviously printed in America, probably in Connecticut, in the latter half of the 18th century. AAS.
- Aristotle's compleat master-piece. In three parts. [etc., as above] The twenty eighth edition. [America:] Printed and sold by the booksellers, 1766. 124 + p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. Our copy lacks all after p. 124, probably about 8 pages. AAS.
- Aristotle's master-piece completed. In two parts. The first containing the secrets of generation in all the parts thereof. [etc., 13 lines] The second part being a private looking-glass for the female sex. [etc., 5 lines] New-York: Printed for the Company of Flying Stationers. 1793. 130 p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. AAS, AML.
- Aristotle's master-piece, compleated in two parts. [Etc., as above] [America:] Printed in the year 1794. 132 p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. AAS.
- Aristotle's complete master piece, in three parts; displaying the secrets of nature in the generation of man. Regularly digested into chapters and sections, rendering it far more useful and easy than any yet extant. To which is added a treasure of health; or the family physician: being choice and approved remedies for all the several distempers incident to the human body. Printed at Worcester, [by Isaiah Thomas] solely for the use of midwives. 1795. 107 p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. AAS.
- Aristotle's complete master-piece; displaying the secrets of nature in the generation of man. To which is added, the family physician: being improved remedies for the several distempers incident to the human body. Philadelphia: Printed for the booksellers. MDCCXCVIII.] 72 p., 8vo. AAS. Copy without individual title page, in Works, 1798.
- Aristotle's master-piece, or the secrets of nature displayed in the generation of man: complete in three parts. To which is added, a treasure of health: or, the family physician. Being choice and approved remedies for all the several distempers incident to the human body. The whole being more correct than anything of the kind hitherto published. Worcester: Printed by Daniel Greenleaf. 1801. 108 p., wdct. illus. in text. Uses some of same wdcts. as the Worcester, 1795 edition. AAS.
- Aristotle's master-piece, completed. In two parts. [etc., as in New York, 1793 ed.] New-York: Printed for the Company of Flying Stationers. 1807. 137 p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. AAS.
- Aristotle's master-piece, completed. [etc., as in New York, 1793 edition] New-York: Printed for the Company of Flying Stationers.

1811. 126 p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. (14.5 cm.) From LC card for copy in Franklin and Marshall College.
- The master-piece of Aristotle, the famous philosopher . . . Printed for the booksellers: London, [1812?]. 18mo. BM.
- The complete master-piece of Aristotle the famous philosopher, displaying the secrets of nature in the generation of man. A new edition revised by Culpepper. To which is added, a treatise relating to physiognomy, palmistry, &c. &c. [America:] Printed for the purchasers. 1814. Price 50 cents. 123 p., wdct., 16mo. AAS. Brinley copy 7189.
- Aristotle's master-piece, completed. In two parts. [etc., as in New York, 1793 edition] New-York. Printed for the Company of Flying Stationer. [sic] 1817. 114 [sic, 117] p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. AAS.
- Aristotle's complete master-piece, in two parts: displaying the secrets of nature in the generation of man: regularly digested into chapters, rendering it far more useful and easy than any yet extant. To which is added, a treasure of health; or, the family physician; being choice and approved remedies for all the several distempers incident to the human body. New-England: Printed for the publishers, and sold by the principal booksellers in the U. States. 1820. 71 p., wdct. illus., 12mo. AAS. Brinley copy 7188.
- Aristotle's master-piece completed. [etc., as in New York, 1793 edition] New-York: Printed for the United Company of Flying Stationers. M DCC XXXVIII. [Date probably fictitious. Probably late 18th or early 19th century] 103 p., wdct. front. and illus., 12mo. (16 cm.). LC.
- Aristotle's compleat master-piece. In three parts. [etc., as in London, 1752 edition] The 59th edition. London: Printed and sold by the booksellers in town and country. [N.d., but 18th century] 129 p., front. and illus., 12mo. (15 cm.). LC.

MIDWIFE

- Aristotle's compleat and experienc'd midwife . . . Made English by W— S—, M.D. Printed, and sold by the booksellers: London, 1700. iv, 180 p., 12mo. BM.
- Aristotle's compleat and experienc'd midwife . . . The second edition. Printed, and sold by the booksellers: London, 1711. iv, 180 p., 12mo. BM.
- Aristotle's compleat and experienc'd midwife . . . The third edition. Printed, and sold by the booksellers: London, 1718. iv, 168 p., 12mo. BM.
- Aristotle's compleat and experienc'd midwife. In two parts. I. Guide for child-bearing women, in the time of their conception, bearing and suckling their children; with the best means of helping them, both in natural and unnatural labours: together with suitable remedies for the various indispositions of new-born infants.

II. Proper and safe remedies for the curing all those distempers that are incident to the female sex; and more especially those that are any obstruction to their bearing of children. A work far more perfect than any yet extant; and highly necessary for all surgeons, midwives, nurses, and child-bearing women. Made English by W— S—, M.D. The tenth edition. London: Printed and sold by the booksellers. [n.d., circa 1752]. vi, 156, [4] p., wdct. front. and folding plate, 12mo. AAS, AML.

Kurzgefastes Weiber-Buchlein. Enthalt Aristotles und Alberti Magni Hebammen-Kunst, mit den darzu gehorigen Recepten. [ornaments] Gedruckt im Jahr. 1798. Title from Evans 33311.

The experienced midwife: absolutely necessary for surgeons, midwives, nurses, and child-bearing women. A new edition. Philadelphia: Printed for the booksellers. 1799. 100 p., 12mo. AAS, AML.

BOOK OF PROBLEMS

The problemes of Aristotle, with other philosophers and phisitions. Wherein are contained diuers questions, with their answers, touching the estate of mans bodie. Arnold Hatfield: London, 1597. 8vo. BM.

The problems of Aristotle . . . Arn. Hatfield: London, 1607. 8vo. BM.
The problems of Aristotle . . . For J. Wright & R. Chiswel: London, 1680. 8vo. BM.

Same title and imprint, 1684. BM.

Aristotle's book of problems, with other astronomers, astrologers, physicians, and philosophers. Wherein is contain'd diuers questions and answers touching the state of man's body. Together with the reasons of diuers wonders in the creation: the generation of birds, beasts, fishes, and insects; and many other problems on the most weighty matters, by way of question and answer. The twenty-fifth edition. London: Printed and sold by J.W./J.K./G.C./D.M./A.B./E.M./R.K./J.O. and L./B.M./and A.W. [n.d. The B.M. catalogue dates this edition 1710. The AAS copy is bound with other parts of the Works dated 1749 and 1752]. [2], 152 p., wdct. front., 12mo. AAS, BM.

Aristotle's book of problems, with other astronomers, astrologers, philosophers, physicians, &c: wherein are contained diuers questions and answers touching the state of man's body. Together with the reasons of diuers wonders in the creation; the generation of birds, beasts, fishes, and insects; and many other problems on the most weighty matters, by way of question and answer. A new edition. Philadelphia: Printed for the booksellers. MDCXCII. 68 p., 12mo. AAS.

LEGACY

Aristotle's legacy: or, his golden cabinet of secrets opened. In five treatices . . . Translated into English by Dr. Borman. For J. Blare: London, [1690?]. 24 p., 4to. BM.

- Aristotle's legacy . . . Translated into English by Dr. Solman. J. Blare: London, [1700?]. 92 p., 12mo. BM.
- Aristotle's last legacy; or, his golden cabinet of secrets opened, for youth's delightful pastime . . . Translated into English by Dr. Saman . . . Tho. Norris: London, 1711. 162 p., 12mo. BM.
- Aristotle's last legacy . . . A. Bettsworth & C. Hitch . . . : London, [1720]. 156 p., 12mo. BM.
- Aristotle's last legacy, unfolding the mysteries of nature in the generation of man: treating I. of virginity, in signs and tokens, and how a man may know whether he married a virgin or not. II. Of the organs of generation in women, with a description of the fabrick of the womb. III. Of the use and action of genitals in the work of generation. IV. Of conception; and how to know whether a woman has conciev'd, and whether of a male or female. V. Of the pleasure and advantage of marriage; and the unhappy consequences of unequal matches, and miseries of unlawful love. VI. Of barrenness, with remedy against it; and the signs of insufficiency, both in men and women. VII. Directions to both sexes how to manage themselves in the act of coition, or their venereal embraces. VIII. A vade mecum for midwives and nurses, containing particular directions for the faithful discharge of their several employments. IX. Excellent remedies against all diseases incident to virgins and child-bearing women: fitted for the use of midwives, nurses and all such persons only as are concerned in these matters. London: Printed for R. Ware, on Ludgate-Hill, C. Hitch, in Paternoster-Row, and J. Hodges, on London-Bridge. 1749. [6], 112 p., wdet. front., 12mo. AAS.
- Aristotle's legacy . . . Translated by Dr. Boreham. Newcastle, [1790?]. 24 p., 12mo. BM.
- Aristotle's last legacy, unfolding the mysteries of nature in the generation of man. Treating, [etc., as in London, 1749 edition] A new edition. Philadelphia: Printed for the booksellers. MDCCXCII. 34 p. [last page misnumbered 39], 12mo. AAS.

WORKS

- [The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher. In four parts. London, circa 1752. No general title page. Contains: Aristotle's compleat master piece, 1752; Aristotle's compleat and experienc'd midwife, n.d., but circa 175-?; Aristotle's book of problems, n.d., but circa 175-?; Aristotle's last legacy, 1749. Each part has its own title, pagination and signatures. For full description, see under individual titles.] AAS.
- The works of Aristotle in four parts, containing: I. His complete-masterpiece, displaying the secrets of nature in the generation of man; to which is added the family physician, being improved remedies for the several distempers incident to the human body. II. His experienced midwife; absolutely necessary for surgeons,

midwives, nurses, and childbearing women. III. His book of problems; containing various questions and answers relative to the state of man's body. IV. His last legacy; unfolding the secrets of nature respecting the generation of man. A new edition. London, 1796. 411 p., 16mo. AML. Title from the Index-catalogue of the library of the Surgeon-General's Office.

The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher. In four parts. Containing [etc., as in London, 1796 edition] A new edition. Philadelphia: Printed for the booksellers. MDCCXCVIII. 72, 100, 68, 34 p., 12mo. AAS, BM.

Contents: Aristotle's masterpiece, without separate title page. 72 p., A-F in 6s; Experienced midwife, 1799. 100 p., G-I, K-O in 6s, P in 2; Aristotle's book of problems, 1792, 68 p., [Q] in 4, R-U, W-in 6; Aristotle's last legacy, 1792. 34 p., X-z in 6, the last leaf blank. For complete descriptions, see under individual titles.

The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher. In four parts. Containing: [etc., as in London, 1796 edition] A new edition. London [Probably printed in America]: Printed for the booksellers. 1806. 33 p., wdct. illus., 12mo. AAS.

The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher. In four parts. Containing [etc., as in London, 1796 edition] A new edition. New England: Printed for the proprietor. January—1806. 269 p., wdct. illus., 12mo. AAS.

The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher. In four parts. Containing [etc., as in London, 1796 edition] A new edition. New England: Printed for the proprietor. February—1813. 264 p., wdct. illus., 12mo. AAS.

The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher, in four parts. Containing [etc., as in London, 1796 edition] A new edition. New-England: Printed for the publishers. 1821. 286 p., wdct. illus., 12mo. AAS.

The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher, in four parts. Containing [etc., as in London, 1796 edition] A new edition with engravings. New-England: Printed for the publishers. 1831. 247 p. wdct. front. (Siamese Twins) and illus., 12mo. AAS.

Same edition with paper label on back: Aristotle's works, in four parts. Boston edition 1833. AAS.

The works of Aristotle, the famous philosopher. In four parts [etc., similar to London, 1796 edition] A new and improved edition. London: Printed for Cocker, Harris, and Finn, and sold by all booksellers. [at foot of last page:] Harris, Printer, Smith-street, London. [n.d., circa 1850?]. 312 p., engraved front. and wdct. illus., 12mo. AAS.

The works of Aristotle . . . containing his complete master-piece, and family-physician; his experienced midwife; his book of problems; his remarks on physiognomy; and his last legacy . . . With

engravings. Printed for the booksellers: London, [1850?]. 352 p., 16mo. BM.

Revised edition of the works of Aristotle . . . containing his complete master-piece and family physician, his experienced midwife . . . J. Smith: London, [1857]. 320 p., 16mo. BM.

The works of Aristotle the famous philosopher complete. Containing the masterpiece, directions for midwives, and important advice to child-bearing women, with problems, etc. [wdct.] London [probably America] Published by the booksellers [circa 1860?]. 286 p., wdct. front., plates and illus. in text, 12mo. AAS.

Title and plates in red. Wdcts. in text are reversed copies of those in the London, 1806 edition.

The works of Aristotle, including his master-piece and important advice to females. London, 1883. 142 p., 16mo. AML. Title from Index-catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Office.

A DOZEN DELECTABLE IMPRINTS

Here you may see a century and a half of rarities, some of them by famous authors, some important for their subject matter and all unusual examples of the printer's art in various towns and cities. These are but samples of the fish that come annually to our net, the which are promptly served up for the delectation of our scholarly readers.

COTTON, JOHN. A treatise I. Of faith. II. Twelve fundamental articles of Christian religion. III. A doctrinal conclusion. IV. Questions and answers upon church-government. Taken from written copies long since delivered by the late Reverend Mr. John Cotton, teacher of the First Church in Boston, in New-England. [Boston?] Printed in the year 1713. 28 p., small 8vo. Evans 1604. BPL, YALE.

WADSWORTH, BENJAMIN. Christian advice to the sick and well. [12 lines] By Benjamin Wadsworth, A.M. Pastor of a church in Boston, N.E. [3 lines quoted] Boston, N.E. Printed by J. Allen, for Benj. Eliot, at the north-side of the Town-House. 1714. [4], 107 p., 12mo. Evans 1720 gives wrong imprint and locates none. An important medico-religious tract on the measles epidemic.

BURKITT, WILLIAM. The poor man's help, and young man's guide: containing doctrinal instructions for the right informing of his judgment . . . Directions for the general course of his life . . . Boston: Printed by B. Green. 1731. [2], iv, 138 p., 12mo. Evans 3398 gives no collation or location. This copy imperfect.

FRILINGHUISEN, THEODORUS JACOBUS. A clear demonstration of a righteous and ungodly man, in their frame, way and end. Containing five excellent sermons, preached in the Dutch tongue by the

- Reverend Theod. Jac. Frilinghuisen, minister of the Holy Gospel at Raraton, in New-Jersey. And now translated into English, by a wellwisher to Zion's prosperity. New-York. Printed for the publisher by John Peter Zenger. MDCCXXXI. [12], 158, [1] p., 8vo. A translation from the Dutch, with three sermons added, of Evans 3166, copies of which are in NYPL and Rutgers U. This English edition is unknown to bibliographers and the only known copies are in AAS (imperfect) and RUTGERS U.
- BEAVEN, THOMAS. An essay concerning the restoration of primitive Christianity, in a conduct truly pious and religious. Third edition with additions. Newport: Reprinted by James Franklin. [1736]. 140 p., 16mo. Evans 3985 gives wrong collation and locates none. Winship locates at RIHS.
- BARCLAY, ROBERT. The anarchy of the ranters . . . Philadelphia: Re-printed, and sold by B. Franklin, and D. Hall, 1757. viii, 111, [1] p., 8vo. Evans 7840. BM, HSP. Provenance: John Gill 1786, his son-in-law Job Whitall 1796, Samuel Coles 1805, Albert May Todd (bookplate), William F. Gable (bookplate).
- BUELL, SAMUEL. The divine agency acknowledged in the death of our dearest friends. A sermon occasioned by the death of Mrs. Esther Darbe, late consort of John Darbe, M.A. who departed this life Sept. 24, 1757. Aetatis 38. By Samuel Buell, M.A. and pastor of the church of Christ at East-Hampton, Long-Island. To which is added, a letter of condolence to Mr. Darbe, by the Rev. James Brown, of Bridge-Hampton, Long-Island. [3 lines quoted] New-York: Printed by J. Parker and W. Weyman, 1757. [4], ii, 5-34 p., 8vo. Evans 7858. CHS.
- LYDEKKER, GERRIT. A discourse on greatness, and praise of the Lord, composed and delivered, by Gerrit Lydekker, A.B. New-York, Printed by Samuel Brown, at the foot of Potbaker's Hill, between the New-Dutch Church, and Fly-Market. 1766. [2], 113, 4 p., 8vo. A very unusual imprint, unknown to Evans.
- Remarkable curiosities. Containing a description of the upas, or poison-tree. Of the Russian lamb. Of a subterraneous city. Remarkable curiosity. Concerning the Jews. On kings. Extract from Brackenridge's "Modern Chivalry," lately published. Thoughts on hard drinking. Prices current &c. among the army in an Indian country, in the Spring, 1794. To which is subjoined, a remarkable prophecy. The whole compose a genteel & expert compendium. [American printing, n.p.] MDCCXCIV. [Price, single, 6d.]. 16 p., 16mo. AAS. Interesting for its extract from Brackenridge's *Modern chivalry*. Phil., 1792.
- The trial, &c. of Louis XVI. Late King of France, and Marie Antoinette, his Queen. Embellished with copper-plate engravings. Lansingburgh: Printed by Silvester Tiffany, for, and sold by, Thomas Spencer, at his book-store, in Market-street, Albany, 1794.

36 p., 2 plates, 12mo. Contains two copperplates by Abner Reed. Not in Evans, Stauffer or Fielding. AAS.

The testimony of Christ's second appearing containing a general statement of all things pertaining to the faith and practice of the Church of God in this Latter-Day [rule] Published in union. By order of the ministry [rule] [rule, 2 lines quoted, double rule] Lebanon, State of Ohio: From the press of John M'Clean Office of the Western Star. [rule] 1808. 600, [3] p., 12mo. Rare first edition of the Shaker Bible. AAS.

[GIORDA, JOSEPH]. Smiimii lu tel kaimintis kolinzuten. Narratives from the Holy Scripture. In Kalispel. St. Ignatius Print Montana. 1876. [4], 140, 14 p., 8vo. McMurtrie's Montana bibliography 92 locates at LC. Same, reprinted with slight changes and variant title but same collation, St. Ignatius Print, Montana. 1879. McMurtrie 113 locates at HIST. SOC. MONTANA, HEB?, WELLESLEY COLLEGE, NYPL, UNIV. WASHINGTON, ALEXANDER LEGGAT.

THE REVOLUTION

One of the most amusing pieces of Revolutionary humor is the anonymous Scriptural parody called *The American Chronicles of the Times*, originally published in Philadelphia in 1774-1775 in six separately issued parts. Five printers in Boston and one each in Norwich, Providence, Salem and Newbern reprinted from one to five of the parts. Among these, reprints of the first five parts were issued by John Boyle of Boston. So rare is this edition that only our newly acquired set and that at the W. L. Clements Library are complete, while the Boston Public Library and the Library of Congress have the first four parts only. We also have scattering issues of several of the other editions, all of which are of great rarity. For a bibliography of the subject by Mr. J. R. Bowman, see *American Literature*, March, 1929, p. 69-74.

It is sometimes instructive to look at a particular situation from the other fellow's point of view. For this purpose I would commend you to a volume we have long wanted and just secured which, in its introduction and in the illustrations taken from the war then in progress, shows us how the revolt of the American colonies influenced the feelings of at least

one British officer engaged in it. This book is Major Robert Donkin's *Military collections and remarks*. New-York: Printed by H. Gaine, 1777. [4], vi, [22], 264 p., engraved front., 8vo. It was published for the benefit of the "innocent children and widows of the valiant soldiers inhumanly and wontonly butchered" in the "bloody massacre committed on his majesty's troops peaceably marching to and from Concord the 19th April, 1775." Needless to say, our historians have not recorded the Lexington-Concord fight in just those terms. That the doughty Major was a little too strong in his sentiments even for his fellow Britishers is evident from the fact that in almost every known copy of his book, including ours, the footnote on the use of bows and arrows in modern warfare, has been neatly cut out of page 190. The note reads: "Dip arrows in matter of small pox, and twang them at the American rebels, in order to inoculate them; This would sooner disband these stubborn, ignorant, enthusiastic savages, than any other compulsive measures. Such is their dread and fear of that disorder!" We can read this now with an amused smile, but how it must have infuriated our ancestors!

Sergeant Roger Lamb of the Royal Welch Fusiliers was much less bloodthirsty than the Major, in spite of the fact that he was, during part of the Revolution, a prisoner of war, interned at the prison camp at Rutland, Massachusetts. He gives a good account of the war, including his experiences in the internment camp, in his: "An original and authentic journal of occurrences during the late American war, from its commencement to the year 1783." Dublin: Wilkinson & Courtney, 1809, a copy of which we have owned for many years. We have, however, only recently secured his later volume: "Memoir of his own life, by R. Lamb . . ." Dublin: J. Jones, 1811, which gives many added details not found in the previous volume. One of the most interesting parts of this later volume is his eye-witness account of the execution of Bathsheba

Spooner and her accomplices at Worcester. Two of the culprits in this famous case, brought realistically to life a year ago in Esther Forbes' novel "The General's Lady," were acquaintances of Lamb and for this reason he was especially interested in recording the affair. This fine volume was presented by Mr. Chandler Bullock.

To us in Worcester, one of the most important, and certainly one of the rarest, of all Revolutionary narratives is: "A journal kept by Mr. John Howe, while he was employed as a British spy, during the Revolutionary war; also, while he was engaged in the smuggling business, during the late war. Concord, N. H. Luther Roby, Printer. 1827." 44 p., 12mo., original wrappers, uncut. Howe was sent to Worcester and later to Concord by General Gage early in April, 1775 to find out whether it were possible for an expedition from Boston to capture or destroy the military stores in those towns. He reported that the expedition to Concord could be carried out successfully but that it would be impossible to succeed at Worcester because of the distance and the dangerous temper of the people. Had it not been for this spy's report, it is possible that the first battle of the Revolution might have been fought on Worcester common and not at Concord bridge. Spy narratives are extremely rare and this one, through brief, is of unusual interest because of its adventurous detail. Only two or three copies are known. Other spies had been sent over the same routes two months earlier and they too had their adventures, as recorded in: "General Gage's instructions . . ." Boston: J. Gill, 20 p., 8vo. AAS, BA, JCB, MHS. Same with notes in *Bostonian Society Publications*, Vol. 9, 1912.

At least one contemporary British novel was inspired by the events of the Revolutionary War and had its scene of action in the Philadelphia of that period. It was written by Samuel Jackson Pratt and was published in at least half a dozen editions, that for

1783, which we recently secured, being unknown to Evans. The recorded editions are these:

Emma Corbett; or, the miseries of civil war. Founded on some recent circumstances which happened in America. . . . Bath, Pratt and Clinch; London, R. Baldwin, 1780. 3 vols., 8vo. LC.

Same, Dublin, Price . . . 1780. [4], 305, [1] p., 8vo. LC.

Emma Corbett: exhibiting Henry and Emma, the faithful modern lovers; as delineated by themselves, in their original letters. Published by Courtney Melmoth . . . Philadelphia: Printed and sold by Robert Bell, in Third-Street. MDCCLXXXII. 3 vols., 8vo. LC.

Same title and imprint, MDCCLXXXIII. 3 vols., 48, 48, 48 p., 8vo. AAS, NYPL.

Same title, Philadelphia: Printed and sold by Young and M'Culloch, corner of Second and Chesnut-Streets. 1786. 2 vols. Evans 19932.

Emma Corbett. In two volumes. The sixth edition. Vol. I. [II.] Newbury-Port: Printed by John Mycall, for Ebenezer Battelle and William Green, book-sellers in Boston. [Evans dates it 1786, LC dates it 1790?] 2 vols., 239; 227, [1] p., 12mo. AAS, LC.

RAPSCALLIONS

The pious early historians of New England put most of their emphasis on the political, military and church history of the region and ignored the tavern and waterfront loafers, the backwoods bullies and the sailors' sweethearts as beneath their notice. But the Boston Massacre, which the upright citizens were glad enough to use for purposes of propaganda, was a waterfront and tavern brawl; Shays' Rebellion was the work of the malcontents of Massachusetts; and the idealistic conductors of the underground railroad were, from the southern point of view, a shifty lot of fly-by-nights intent on stealing other men's property in the name of freedom and humanity. Jacob Riis taught us the value of knowing "how the other half lives," and the social historian, if he hopes to present a true picture of the times, must study the colorful careers of the rapscallions as well as the lives of the deacons and elders.

To this end we have recently placed on the same shelf with the life of Cotton Mather, an account of the

adventures of the highwayman Michael Martin; we have made the Reverend Peter Thacher rub elbows with the three Thayers, the murderers of John Love; and we have placed the Reverend George Whitefield cheek by jowl with the eighteenth century Yankee gold-digger, K. White.

Michael Martin (1795-1821), otherwise known as Captain Lightfoot, had a long and colorful career as a New England highwayman and was finally hanged at Boston for his crimes. His adventures have been of interest from that time to this, as the following references show:

Trial of Michael Martin, for highway robbery, before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, for the County of Middlesex, October term, 1821. Reported by F. W. Waldo, Esq. Boston: Published by Russell and Gardner. 1821. 36 p., 8vo. AAS, BA.

Life of Michael Martin, who was executed for highway robbery, December 20, 1821. As given by himself [to F. W. Waldo] Boston: Published by Russell & Gardner. 1821. 102 p., 8vo. AAS, BPL, LC.

Review of the "Life of Michael Martin, who was executed for highway robbery" . . . Boston: Wells and Lilly. 1822. 12 p., 8vo. BA.

Mike Martin: or, the last of the highwaymen. A romance of reality. By F.[rancis] A.[lexander] Durivage, author of "Angela, or love and guilt," "Edith Vernon," &c. &c. Boston: Charles H. Brainard. 82 Washington Street. 1845. 48 p., wdct., 8vo. AAS, BPL, HCL.

Confession of Michael Martin, or Captain Lightfoot, who was hung at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the year 1821, for the robbery of Maj. Bray. [wdct. vignette] Also, an account of Dr. John Wilson, who recently died at Brattleboro, Vt., believed by many to be the notorious Captain Thunderbolt. Brattleboro', Vt.: J. B. Miner, Publisher. 1847. 30, 12 p., port., 8vo. AAS, LC.

—Same, another printing with same imprint, date and collation. AAS.

—Same, with cover title dated 1850. AAS.

Lightfoot and Thunderbolt [Title continued as above] Reprinted May, 1920, by The Vermont Printing Co. for C. R. Crosby. 99 p., 2 illus., 12mo. AAS.

Captain Lightfoot the last of the New England highwaymen. A narrative of his life and adventures, with some account of the notorious Captain Thunderbolt. [cut of a gallows] Topsfield, Massachusetts, The Wayside Press 1926. xiii, [1], 162, [1] p., illus., 8vo. AAS, LC.

Confession of Michael Martin [etc. as in the 1850 ed.] [On verso of Preface:] Reproduction in facsimile. Published by Stephen Daye

Press, Brattleboro, Vt., for the Windham County Historical Society
August 1933. 30, 12, 96-99 p., 8vo. AAS.

The first hanging in Buffalo, N. Y., created an immense excitement throughout the country when, on June 17, 1825, Israel, Isaac and Nelson Thayer were executed for the murder of John Love when they attempted to rob him of a large sum of money he was said to possess. That this was one of the most "popular" of early murders is shown by the contemporary accounts of it:

An account of the last hours of the lives of the three Thayers, who were executed for the murder of John Love, at Buffalo, N. Y. June 17th, 1825. [Text in prose and verse, with woodcut of the gallows. n.p., 1825]. Folio broadside unknown to bibliographers. AAS.

The dying address of the three Thayers . . . [together with:] A sketch of the life, condemnation, and death of the three Thayers . . . [Boston, Erie Co., N. Y., 1825]. Folio broadsides printed together to be cut apart and sold separately. AAS, U.ROCHESTER.

An interesting narrative of the murder of John Love . . . Buffalo: Printed and published by Lazell and Francis. 1825. 16 p., 16mo. Sabin 95264.

The life, condemnation, dying address, and trial of the three Thayers . . . Buffalo: Printed for the publisher. 1825. 15 p., 8vo. AAS.

Same, Second edition.. Boston [Erie Co., N. Y.]: Printed by John G. Scobie, for the publisher. [1825]. 16 p., 8vo. AAS, HCL, NYHS, U.ROCH

Same, New-Ipswich, Printed by Salmon Wilder. [1835]. 22 p., 12mo. Unknown to bibliographers. AAS.

The life, trial, condemnation, and dying address, of the three Thayers! . . . [date on title incorrectly printed 1815] Buffalo: Printed for the publisher. [1825]. 15 p., 8vo. AAS.

Same, with date corrected. AAS.

Same, another edition. 16 p., 8vo. AAS, U.ROCH.

Same, another edition. 16 p., 8vo. AAS, CU, HCL, NYHS, U.ROCH.

Same, another edition. 16 p., 8vo. HCL, MHS.

Trial of Isaac, Israel, Jr., and Nelson Thayer . . . Printed . . . by Lazell & Francis . . . Buffalo . . . 1825. 34, [2] p., 12mo. Sabin 95272.

Same, n.p., Printed for the publisher, July, 1825. 36 p., 12mo. HCL, U.ROCH.

Same, second edition, n.p., Printed for the publisher, August, 1825: 36 p., 12mo. HEH, NYHS:

Same, Buffalo: Printed and published by H. A. Salisbury. 1825. 43.
[1] p., 8vo. HEH, NYBA, U.ROCH.

Same, second edition, enlarged. 48 p., 8vo. LC, U.ROCH., WHS.

Trial, sentence, and execution of . . . Second edition. New-York:
Printed and published by J. M'Clelland, 285 Water-Street. 1825.
[2], 32 p., 8vo. AAS.

Though we find a few autobiographies of masculine rogues in early American literature, we had never discovered the memoirs of a female Casanova, forger and general reprobate until we came across a neat little calf bound volume with the following title:

A narrative of the life, occurrences, vicissitudes and present situation, of K. White. Compiled and collated by herself Feb. 1809. Schenectady: Printed for the authoress. 1809. 127 p., 12mo. AAS, HEH, LC, NYHS.

On opening the book we find that the "authoress" was born in Edinburgh in 1772 and came to America with her parents three years later. They removed to Stockbridge where the heroine was captured by the Indians during the Revolution and finally ransomed. She then went to Boston, married, had a child, was deserted by her husband, attempted to go into trade but failed at that and was finally tried at Worcester for forgery and acquitted. She then went to Providence and thence to New York State where she had many adventures in and out of jail. Hearing that her husband had skipped to Canada and remarried without a divorce, she went about blackmailing him, landed in jail again, where she had plenty of time to write the verses scattered throughout the book, and finally paused in her interesting career to compose the story of her 37 years of eventful life. Though she tells her tale with due restraint, it is easy to see that the hot water in which she frequently found herself was kept at the boiling point by the fires of love rather than by the activities of her enemies.

JUVENILES

We always like to pick a half dozen children's books from our year's harvest and parade them before the envious eyes of our collecting friends but we also have the more laudable purpose of reminding students of our growing riches in this delightful field so that when they write their volumes on our early social history, they will not forget the children or the books they read for their amusement or the improvement of their minds. Here then, are some of the charming titles secured this year:

The protestant tutor. Instructing children to spell and read English, and grounding them in the true Protestant religion, and discovering the errors and deceits of the Papists. London, Printed for Ben Harris under the piazza of the Royal Exchange in Cornhil, 1679. [11], 128, 130, 97-128, 1-29, [3], 131-146 p., illus., 24mo. Lacks woodcut front. port. of Charles II and one leaf of advertisements. Our earliest edition of a famous juvenile which was shortly reprinted in this country.

The history of two good boys and girls, to which is added, the story of three naughty girls and boys: together with the father's advice. Boston: Printed and sold by N. Coverly. 1793, Price 4 coppers. 16 p., illus., 24mo. Unknown to bibliographers and probably unique.

Travels of Robinson Crusoe. Written by himself. First Newport edition. Newport: Printed by H. & O. Farnsworth. 1799. 26, [2] p., illus., 24mo. Lacks front. Unknown to bibliographers and probably unique.

The New England primer, improved . . . Philadelphia: Printed for J. Pounder . . . 1815.

Same, Concord: Printed by George Hough. 1828.

Marmaduke Multiply. New York and Boston: C. S. Francis and Company. [circa 1850]. 71 p., illus., 12mo. A famous rhymed multiplication table with a hand colored woodcut on each page.

Twice 3 are 6.

You're always playing tricks.

4 times 8 are 32

I once could dance as well as you.

Eleven times 11 are 121.

Come here, little boy, and buy a nice bun.

12 times 12 are 144.

So I bid you good bye, and shut the door.

LITERARY ODDS AND ENDS

One of the rarest volumes of Rhode Island verse was written by Joseph Brown Ladd, of Tiverton but, strangely enough, was published in Charleston, S. C. It was appeared anonymously under the title:

The poems of Arouet. [12 lines quoted] Charleston, South-Carolina: Printed by Bowen and Markland, No. 53, Church-Street, and No. 11, Elliot-Street. 1786. xvi, 128 p., 12mo. AAS, BU.

The volume is dedicated to Washington and has poems to America, to Carolina and on the Fourth of July. Though nearly 300 copies were sold by subscription, only two seem to have survived.

We have recently added to our well-nigh complete collection of the first editions of the writings of the Revolutionary poet, Philip Freneau, a copy of his important volume:

A collection of poems, on American affairs, and a variety of other subjects, chiefly moral and political; written between the year 1797 and the present time. . . . New-York: Published by David Longworth . . . 1815. 2 vols. in 1. viii, [13]-188, [4], [4],[9]-176 p., 12mo. AAS.

A volume of less literary nutriment but of considerable interest and rarity is:

The universal dream book; or, interpreter of all manner of dreams, alphabetically arranged. Abridged from the writings of Aristotle . . . To which is added, a treatise on moles. Philadelphia. 1817. 90 p., 12mo.

The earlier American joke books are, almost without exception, copies of British wit and humor and not original or American. Here is one which has a considerable amount of real American humor and so is valuable to the student of our literature and social life:

The American jest book, being a chaste collection of anecdotes, bon mots, and epigrams, original and selected, for the amusement of the young and old of both sexes: by the author of *The American Chesterfield*. Philadelphia: Hogan & Thompson. Pittsburg—D. M. Hogan. 1833. 316 p., 12mo. AAS.

We have now completed our collection of the first editions of the novels of Robert Montgomery Bird, by the addition of his important story:

Nick of the woods, or the Jibbenainosay. A tale of Kentucky . . .
Philadelphia: Carey, Lea & Blanchard. 1837. 2 vols, vi, [13]-240
[12]; [4], 246, [8] p., 12mo.

BROADSIDES

Today we eagerly reach for the latest extra to find out the war news from Europe, what our legislators have done since yesterday, which of our neighbors has had his house burglarized, or to learn what shows are to be in town this week. For this information our ancestors turned to the broadsides posted on church and court house doors, in tavern tap rooms and village shops. Here are some of the current events of the past as found in a few of our recently acquired broadsides.

State of Massachusetts-Bay. In the House of Representatives, June 15, 1799. Whereas by the returns made into the Secretary's Office . . . [Resolution calling a state constitutional convention]. Evans 16365, Ford 2192. BPL, MBS, MASS.ARCH., NYPL. Gift of Mr. Robert F. Seybolt.

State of Massachusetts-Bay. In convention, June 16, 1780. [Ratification of the new state constitution]. Evans 16846, Ford 2259. BPL, LC, NYPL. Gift of Mr. Robert F. Seybolt.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Boston, March 15, 1782. Whereas the General Court . . . [Printed form for use in collecting a tax in the city of Boston to defray the expenses of sending Boston's quota of 85 men to fill gaps in the Massachusetts Line of the Continental Army]. Not in Evans or Ford and probably unique. Gift of Mr. Robert F. Seybolt.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Worcester ss. At a Court of General Sessions of the Peace, begun and held at Worcester, in and for the County of Worcester, on the first Tuesday of December, A.D. 1781. Ordered . . . [Resolution that no innholder shall be licensed who entertains travellers on the Sabbath unless such travelling is occasioned by necessity or charity.]. Joseph Allen, Cler. Pacis. [Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, 1781]. Not in Evans, Ford or Nichols, probably unique. Gift of Mrs. F. A. Farrar.

[Yale College. Thesis, 1765, 1770, 1774, 1782. In most cases, the only other recorded copy is at Yale].

Last words and dying speech of Samuel Smith, who was executed at Concord, in the County of Middlesex, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the 26th of December, A.D. 1799, for the crime of burglary. [Colophon:] To be sold at Mr. Reuben Bryant's Book-Store, Concord, Also at Edes's Printing-Office, Kilby-Street, Boston. Ford 2939. NYHS.

Trial for murder. Boston, December 18, 1813. On Thursday last, two young men, one named Livermore and the other Angier, received the sentence of death, at the Supreme Court held at Cambridge, for the murder of an Indian man, named Nicholas John Cruay, and his wife, by shooting them while in their beds with muskets loaded with balls and ten-penny nails. [The Indian had defeated all comers in a wrestling match and the murder was in revenge for the loss of the match. The story is told in prose and also in 24 verses]. Boston, Printed by Nathaniel Coverly, Jun. Milk Street. [1813]. Gift of Mr. Matt B. Jones.

The hunters of Kentucky. [No place, no date. An eight verse War of 1812 song celebrating the victory of Jackson and his Kentucky riflemen at the Battle of New Orleans]. Gift of Mr. Matt B. Jones.

CIRCUS BROADSIDES

Our extensive collection of early circus posters and hand bills was greatly enriched this year by the addition of the following important pieces, most of which are believed to be unique:

The Great Egyptian Dragon Chariot, /drawn by camels imported from the deserts of Arabia for Crane & Co's great Oriental Circus, the largest equestrian and zoological establishment in the world. The caravan consists of real Syrian camels much larger than any ever before imported. Two of the number are sacred white camels or albinos. /The whole of this immense establishment will exhibit at [Massillon, Ohio, May 11th,] 1849. [Colored lithograph of band wagon drawn by 10 camels, with oriental background]. *Lith. and printed in colors by G. & W. Endicott N. York. C. Parsons del. 2'4" x 6'2".*

Moral and instructive. /Van Amburgh & Co's/Great/Golden Menagerie/Henry Barnum Manager. /large colored woodcut of camel and keeper]/Clarry & Reilley, Engravers and Steam Job Printers Nos. 12, 14 & 16 Spruce St., N. Y., the Largest Show Bill Printing Office in the World. /A two-humped/Bactrian Camell!/The only one in America. /rule]/Clary & Reilley, Engravers and Steam Job Printers, Nos. 12, 14 & 16 Spruce St., N. Y., the Largest Show Bill Printing Office in the World. /Will exhibit at [Wooster, Ohio] Thursday, Sept. 29th/Admission 50 cents. Children under nine,

25 cents. Doors open at 1 and 7 o'clock. [Text in red, green, gold and black, woodcut in yellow, black, red and white]. Colored woodcut of camel and keeper. 3'5" x 4'10".

Moral and instructive./Just added to/Van Amburgh & Co's/Great Golden Menagerie/[colored woodcut of fight between lion, rhinoceros and elephant, signed *Morse*]/A splendid/black rhinoceros!/or Unicorn of Holy Writ./[rule]/Clary & Reilley, Engravers and Decorative Steam Job Printers, 12, 14 & 16 Spruce St., New York. Largest Show Bill Printing Establishment in the World./Will exhibit at [Wooster, Ohio] Thursday, Sept. 29th/Admission 50 cents. Children under 9, 25 cents. Doors open at 1 and 7 o'clock. Colored woodcut in red, green, yellow, brown and black. 3'5" x 4'9".

Black ostrich![rule]/Campbell's/Zoological Institute!/[large colored woodcut of black ostrich, with another beyond] [Exhibited at Massillon, Ohio, Friday, August 12] Colored woodcut in blue, green, black, yellow and white. 2'5" x 3'6".

[Campbell's Zoological Institute. Lion and lioness. Exhibited at Massillon, Ohio, Friday, August 12] Colored woodcut without text, in blue, green, yellow, red and brown. 2'5" x 3'6".

Welch, Mann & Delevan's National Circus Band Carriage,/passing up Broadway New York June 7th 1845. [Circus shown at Massillon, Ohio, Wednesday afternoon June 17th one day only.] Tinted lithograph of band wagon with 8 horses, opposite Astor House, drawn by *G. T. Stanford. Lith. of G. & W. Endicott 59 Beekman St New York. 2'3¼" x 3'8"*. Apparently not in Stokes *Iconography of Manhattan Island* nor in his *American historical prints*.

Mme. Isabel in her Grand Ascension/[Lithograph of crowd around circus tent with Mme. Isabel performing on a high wire attached to top of tent pole]/Upon a single wire /from the ground to an elevation of sixty feet/outside of Sands, Nathans & Cos. Circus./Sarony & Co. N. Y. [lithographers] [Shown at Massillon, Ohio, Tuesday, September 16th, 1856] Lithographic view of circus tent and crowd, town in distance. 2'5" x 3'6".

Wm. Armstrong./The wizzard horseman/[lithograph of seven bare back riders performing various feats of horsemanship in the open, with crowd looking on and with circus tent and town in background]/Who rides without saddle or bridle!/Leaping gates and fences./While standing up on his bare back'd steed./In Sands, Nathans & Cos, American Circus./Sarony & Co. N. Y. [lithographers] [Shown at Massillon, Ohio, Tuesday, September 16th, 1856] Lithographic view of equestrian exhibition, circus tent, crowd and town in background. 2'3" x 3'2".

The great performing elephants/[litho. of band wagon drawn by 6 elephants]/Victoria & Albert/[litho. of 3 performing elephants, oriental background]/Sarony & Co. N. Y. [lithographers]/As they

actually appear in their various feats,/being the same performance which rendered them so/great an attraction in the principal theatres of Europe./Now attached to Sands, Nathans & Co's./Immense Circus./Will perform at [Massillon, Ohio] on [Tuesday, September 16th] 1856. [lithos. of 3 performing elephants at either side] Lithographic poster. 2'3" x 3'2".

Sands, Nathans & Cos. American Circus/[large lithograph of Signor Bliss walking on the ceiling of the stage of a theatre, with crowds watching from boxes and orchestra seats]/Signor Bliss, as he appears in his great antipodal feat!/Being the inventor & original experimenter of this wonderful performance/at [Massillon, Ohio.] on [Tuesday, September 16th] 1856. Lithographic poster showing performance in theatre. 2'3" x 3'2".

Spalding & Roger's North American Circus/[lithograph of interior of one ring circus tent with equestrian performance in progress; and with circus parade around the border]/The leviathan water proof pavilion./Area 15000 sq. feet./Capacity 4000 individuals./This monster establishment comprises/200 persons & horses./Kendall's brass band composes the orchestra. [Shown at Wooster, Ohio, June 14th]. [circa 1848-1850]. Lithographic poster, R. H. Pease Engraver & Lithographer./E. Forbes del./R. H. Pease. Lith. Albany, N. Y. 2' x 3'2".

Miss E. Calhoun, the celebrated Lion Queen, as she appears with her group of 9 lions,/tigers & leopards, now attached to Van Amburgh & Cos. Magnificent Collection of living wild Animals. [Shown at Dover, Ohio, Sept. 18th, 1848] Large tinted lithograph of Miss Calhoun and group of performing animals, *Drawn on stone by E. Brown Jr.* [1848] Printed by Sarony & Major 117 Fulton St. N. Y. 2'3" x 2'11".

Felix Carlo/gymnastic & pantomime clown/Will exhibit at [Wooster, Ohio, June 14th] Copper plate engraved poster showing: *Carlo at drill, Carlo's four train'd cats* being driven by Carlo, riding in a tiny chariot, and five views of Carlo's feats of balancing. Part of Spalding & Roger's North American Circus, [circa 1848-1850]. 1'8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2'3".

Description of animals contained in the Grand/Caravan, according to their numbers. [Nine numbered woodcuts of a lion, two lion cubs, lama, black wolf, Dandy Jack (trained monkey), ichneumon, baboon, Saucy Jack and Little Jack (monkeys). Dated in ink April 1823]. 1'8" x 1'5".

Two days only!/[woodcut of elephant]/The great India/elephant,/superior in size and not inferior in docility and sagacity, to any/ever on the continent; is 21 years old, 9 ft. high, and is judged to weigh 7000 lbs./[double rule]/The real two humped or pleasure/camel,/ [woodcut of camel]/This is the only one in the U. States. The camel is capable/of carrying 400 lbs. more than the drome-

dary, which has uniformly been exhibited for the camel./An African leopard, lama, from Peru, and a variety/of minor animals. Capt. Dick, will display his abilities in horsemonkeyship, on his small Shetland poney./The above will be exhibited at Mr. Gilman's Hotel, Newburyport, until Tuesday/evening, November 6, and positively no longer. Good music during performance./Hours of admittance from 1 P.M. till 9 evening. Admittance, 25 cts. Children 12 ½./[double rule]/Printed at the Herald Office, Newburyport. [1832]. 9½" x 1'8½".

THE GRAPHIC ARTS

Two English mezzotinters came to New England in Colonial times and made names for themselves on this side of the water. One was Peter Pelham, all but two of whose American portraits are in our collection, and the other was Samuel Okey who settled in Newport, R.I. about 1773. Soon after his arrival he engraved in mezzotint a portrait of Rev. Thomas Hiscox, an excellent impression of which we have recently secured. It is signed: *S. Okey Fecit* and has the following title: *The Rev^d M^r. Tho^s. Hiscox/late Pastor of the Baptist Church in Westerly. taken from an Original/Picture Painted by M^r. Feke./Published by Reak & Okey Printsellers & Stationers on the Parade Newport Rhode Island./October 25 1773. 15 x 20 cm. Stauffer credits Okey with portraits of Samuel Adams, which we have, James Honeyman and Joseph Warren and with a copy of Frans Hals' *The Burgomaster*.*

We have many thousands of portraits of the men and women who have made our nation's history and they are all of value to the student whose business it is to record that history. Some of them are in paint or marble or carved out of wood, others are engraved or lithographed, but the greater number are photographs. To this part of the collection Mr. Foster Stearns has added the Frank W. Stearns collection of 128 autographed photographs of judges, members of Congress, politicians, soldiers and sailors prominent during the last quarter century.

Even the lowly picture post card has scholarly value when it records historically important buildings or events. To our collection of some tens of thousands of these cards, all carefully arranged in geographical order, we have now added another fine lot of over 500 cards, the gift of Mr. James H. Pindar. We have also recently secured several thousand advertising cards dating from the eighteen sixties through the eighteen nineties. These supplement our already large collection of these interesting examples of early advertising, lithography and printing.

AMERICAN HISTORY IN GLASS, PORCELAIN AND POTTERY

For a number of years an outstanding part of our collection of pictorial American history has been the Morse collection of American views on Staffordshire pottery. To supplement this collection we have now received, as the gift of Mrs. Robert C. Taylor, her cherished collection of American commemorative glass, porcelain and pottery to the number of 46 pieces, with others still to come. This rare and interesting collection includes 29 pieces of glass, among them the rare Sandwich glass Lafayette ship "Cadmus," and 23 cup plates, several of them of unusual rarity. There are also 17 pieces of porcelain and pottery, including plates, cups and saucers, tobys and figurines. These charming historic reminders of battles on sea, land and rostrum are contemporary memorials of the Revolution, the Mexican and Civil wars, the Spanish American and World wars. The slavery period is here pictured through the eyes of Uncle Tom and little Eva, with a slave in chains and Eliza crossing the ice. From George III to George VI, public figures appear, including a rare view of Mount Vernon in black for the death of Washington, and various other pieces bearing the names or portraits of Lafayette, Clay, Taylor, Harrison, Livingston and his steamboat, Franklin, Grant, Dewey and Teddy Roosevelt.

MANUSCRIPTS

BOSTON'S FIRST PLAY

For many years historians of the stage have tried to find out something definite about the first play produced in the city of Boston. It is true that, in 1853, William W. Clapp stated in his *A record of the Boston stage* that "the first public dramatic performance in this city was Otway's 'Orphan, or Unhappy Marriage,' which was produced at the Coffee House in State street, by two young Englishmen, assisted by some volunteer comrades from the town." Clapp implies that this play was produced just before the enactment, in March, 1750, of the Massachusetts law forbidding the performance of stage plays. Mr. William N. Morse suggests that Clapp probably secured his information from Thomas Pemberton's *Chronology of Massachusetts*. Later historians of the stage have copied Clapp's statement without question, in spite of the fact that no contemporary reference has been found in diaries, letters or newspapers of any 1750 play produced in Boston.

Through the fortunate discovery among the papers of the late P. K. Foley of a letter describing the production of *The Orphan*, we are, at last, able to give the correct date and place of the performance, as well as the cast of characters and the record of how the performance was received by the audience. This letter, written by the young man who played the part of the heroine in the play, was made available by Mr. Foley to Mr. William Northrop Morse who incorporated it in his unpublished Harvard thesis: "Contributions to the history of the New England stage in the eighteenth century, with special reference to Boston and Portsmouth." The reader is referred to this thesis in the Harvard College Library for a complete discussion of the subject. Then the original letter disappeared until it came to light among our Foley manuscripts. It is as follows:

Boston September 15. 1759.

Dear friend.

A great hurry of Business has been the occasion of my not writing you [for] some time, besides not hearing from you, 'till about a week past when I rec'd your favours of the 13th & 27th ult. I was jealous you had gained your point and gone up the River. I never recd your Letter of the 17th July. The Post from Albany arrived last Thursday, and we learn that General Amherst was at Crown Point the first inst ready to proceed waiting to hear from Genl Wolfe. The Scouting Parties have taken several Prisoners upon the Lake who say the French have 5000 Men & 100 pieces of Cannon upon an Island 8 Miles this side St. Johns, where they intend to Salute ye Genl as he passes by, and without doubt the Genl (who has the Character of being much of a Gentn) will return the Compliment, for more news referr you to the inclosed Papers. I hope when the English think of making peace in Germany, they will take care to make the Queen of Hungary pay that trifling Ballance which you'l find drawn between England & herself in the Evening Post.

The old North stands just where it did, Mr. Checkley preaches there still, and last Sunday (I have not forgot it yet tho tis now Saturday) got upon a disputable Point of Religion viz. Predestination and handled it so much to the Edification of his sagacious Congregation, that verily verily I say unto you, I verily believe that every Person that can be perswaded that two & two don't make six, tho't him a Chouderhead for his pains. I'm certain of one that did, so much for Religion.

Now for something else, know then, there has been a play acted in Boston, (don't be frightened) what bro't it about was, several have lately been acted at Cambridge which put some young Gentm. of this Town upon trying their Talents at that instructive Diversion, myself was honour'd with an Invitation to be an Actor and accepted it, the play we pitch'd upon, was the Tragedy called the Orphan (which I suppose you have read) and on the Evening following the seventh inst. we made our first appearance in public, before a great number of Ladies & Gentm. and unless they flatter us damnably we behaved as well as could be expected (they say better). Encouraged by this approbation we intend to Act again next Tuesday Evening at Ballards before a larger I can't say Politer Comp than before, the number proposed to be invited is 66. I act the part of the Orphan herself. Joseph C-rns old Accasto. William T-y-g Chaplain & Servant—Andrew C-z-u Charmont. Doct. L-r-ng Polydore—William Pa-lf-y Castallio. James Fl-gg Servant—Joshua Gardner Page. John G-ch Serina—& Martin Bri-m-r maid. I hope the old dons wont take much notice of it.

We intend Cato next, if not stop'd, and as it will be some time before we act that, I suppose two months. I hope to have the pleasure of presenting yourself, Sir, with a Ticket. So much for plays.

What next? Why Mr Cutler (as sure as you are at Louisbourg) since his return from Halifax has got such an itching to see the World that he cannot stay at home, and about a Month ago set out for New Haven, from which place I recd a Letter from him, informing me that he lik'd his Tour very well and intended the next day to set out for New York, he desired me in his Letter to let you know of his Absence, as you would expect to hear from him if at home. And now I believe, Sir, I have comē to a very handsome period, and shall only beg your Patience but to hear the sincere wishes for your health and prosperity & the Success of His Majesty's Arms in Europe & America of

Sir,
Your friend &
humble Servt

WILLIAM BANT

P.S. Doctr. Thomas Bulfinch was married last Thursday Evening to Miss Susn. Apthorp.
To Lieut. Martyn.

[Docketed on back:] W. B. Letter 15th Sept. 1759.
[and in a later hand:] Richmond Virginia Decr. 19th 1805.

William Bant, the author of this interesting letter, the son of Gilbert Bant, a well-to-do Boston merchant who died in 1754, was born in that city in 1739, married Mary Anne Lewis of Groton and died in that town on November 27, 1780. An obituary notice in the *Continental Journal*, December 14, 1780, shows him to have been a gentleman of admirable qualities and friendly disposition. He was a member of the Sons of Liberty and of an independent company formed at Boston, December 7, 1776, for the defence of the town against the British. A letter from John Hancock to his wife, dated October 18, 1777, shows Bant to have been an intimate friend of the family.

In his letter to Lieutenant Martyn, Bant says that they intended to repeat the performance of *The Orphan* at "Ballards" and Clapp says that the play

was given at "the Coffee House in State street." Both are probably correct, for, according to Drake, the British Coffee House in King (later, State) Street, was kept by a Mr. Ballard in 1762. This was probably John Ballard who kept various eighteenth century Boston taverns at different times.

The Boston cast of characters of *The Orphan*, as interpreted by Mr. Foley, with two different interpretations by Mr. Morse, is as follows:

ACASTO, A nobleman	Joseph Carnes [Mr. Morse says Joseph Eastham]
CASTALIO, Twin son of Acasto	William Palfrey
POLYDORE, Twin son of Acasto	Dr. John Loring
CHAMONT, A young soldier of fortune	
	Andrew Cazneau [Mr. Morse says Andrew Cortelyou]
SERVANT	James Flagg
CORDELIO, Polydore's page	Joshua Gardner
CHAPLAIN	William Tyng
SERVANT	William Tyng
MONIMIA, The orphan, left under the guardianship of Acasto	William Bant
SERINA, Acasto's daughter	John Gooch
FLORELLA, Monimia's maid	Martin Brimmer

CONNECTICUT BLUE LAWS

Most of us know in a vague way of the Connecticut Blue Laws but not many have examined the interesting and often unconsciously humorous indictments by which those laws were made effective and the culprits brought to book. Through the generosity of Mr. John H. Scheide we have recently received a half dozen of these documents, issued in New London County in the seventeen forties and fifties, covering cases of swearing, card playing, malicious mischief, staying in a public house after the nine o'clock curfew, horse stealing and assault and battery. Here is one of them:

To the Sheriff of ye County of New London, his Deputy or to Either of ye Constables of the Town of Norwich within said County Greeting:

Where as it is Presented to me the Subscriber, That Jonathan Jackson of Norwich aforsd, Did in Norwich aforsd. on or about ye 18th day of February last past, Sinfully & Wickedly Curse Obadiah Gore Junr. of s. Norwich, by Saying to him (God Damn You) against the Peace of our Lord & King & ye Laws of This Colony.

These are Therefore In his Majestys Name To Command you forthwith to arrest ye body of ye sd. Jonathan Jackson, and him bring before me as Soon as may be, to answer the premises and be delt with as ye Law Directs, hereof fail not but of this writ, with your Doings thereon make Return according to Law. Dated in Norwich the 30th day of May, 1757.

ISAAC HUNTINGTON, Justice of Peace

THE REVOLUTION

We have also received from Mr. Scheide an important collection of 512 Revolutionary documents from among the papers of Joshua Huntington of Norwich, most of them having to do with his work as Continental Agent for the transportation of the wounded, the arms and supplies of Washington's army when they removed from Boston to New York in 1776. Through these military papers we may, if we have imagination, see the long lines of ox carts toiling through the mud of our New England country roads. We can hear the groans and smothered curses of the wounded as their springless conveyances jounce over ruts and stones, as well as the shouts of officers urging the men to greater efforts in extricating a cannon or munitions wagon from the mud, and the cries of the drivers goading their slow-moving spans over a particularly steep hilltop.

A glimpse of the beginnings of the Revolution may be seen in the three petitions of the citizens of Boston to their selectmen calling for a town meeting to protest the shipment of the East India Company's tea—the first step toward the Boston Tea Party and the final break with the mother country. These interesting documents came as the gift of Mr. Robert F. Seybolt.

NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE LIFE

The daily life of a typical New England village may be read between the lines of the diary of the Reverend Stephen Peabody of Atkinson, N. H., who recorded his thoughts and the comings and goings of his family and neighbors between the years 1777 and 1814. About half of his diaries for these years are unfortunately missing but we have received as the gift of his descendant, Reverend Stephen C. Peabody, the thirteen volumes which have been preserved.

We are fortunate in having secured, through the vigilance of Reverend Herbert E. Lombard, the records of some of the churches in the abandoned towns shortly to be flooded by the Quobbin Reservoir of the Boston water system. These records cover the years 1771 through 1873 and include the drowned towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott as well as the adjoining towns of New Salem and Pelham which still remain. The official seals of the four drowned towns have also been placed in our care.

THE CALIFORNIA VIGILANTES

On September 7th, 1851, Fred T. Houghton wrote an interesting letter from San Francisco to his father, back home at Sterling, Mass., telling of his misadventures in the land of gold, very little of which seems to have stuck to his fingers. The letter fills the 48 three by five inch pages of a black covered "Gregory's Express Pocket Letter Book" and is full of news of San Francisco, Stockton and the diggings. It tells of friends from New England whom he had met in California, of the devastating fires which frequently swept through the flimsy frame buildings of the mushroom cities of the gold region and of the summary justice of the Vigilantes. Of the latter he says:

I suppose you have read the account of our Vigilance Committee hanging 4 or 5. They done perfectly right altho' but few can realize the righteousness except those that have lived

in California & know the necessity of Lynch law, for if it had not been in force for the last two years $\frac{1}{2}$ of the country would have been murdered; since that time I wrote Lizzy an account of my friend shooting a man The man's brother (that was killed) has shot him but did not kill him. The man is in prison awaiting his trial, he could not give the bonds 2500 dollars. . . . Today is a holiday & they are now firing 100 Guns in honor of the admission of California one year ago today. . . . I see by the papers from the states that many of the editors talk like fools about the Vigilance Committees of California. What would have become of California if it had not been for the Committee in the cities & Lynch law. We should all now be at the mercy of the assassin. No one knows the necessity of prompt justice better than those who live in California. We do not find a man after a 6 months residence in Cal, if he be an honest man, but what sees the necessity of prompt & energetic action with respect to Robbers & Murderers.

LITERARY FOLK

In an attractive collection of manuscripts given us by Mrs. F. A. Farrar, we have found letters from Henry W. Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Josiah Quincy and Charles Sumner. We mention them here in order to emphasize the richness of our collection of literary manuscripts and by way of suggestion to those who have similar letters which they would like to have carefully preserved where they will be of use to scholars.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

That the library is appreciated throughout the country is shown by the many gifts we receive from friends at a distance. Mr. George S. Sheppard, of Penn Yan, N. Y., has, for example, sent us a splendid collection of rare newspapers, periodicals and reports issued nearly a century ago by the Masons and Odd Fellows, not a few of them being the only recorded copies. Mr. Frederic G. Melcher of New York has given another large collection of review copies of historical and bibliographical works. Mr. Douglas C. McMurtrie of Chicago has contributed his many

important bibliographies of regional printing and the Historical Records Survey and Works Progress Administration have added scores of their valuable publications to our collection.

Our generous friends are so numerous that we cannot mention them all in this brief space but our shelves would lack many an important book or manuscript were it not for the continued thoughtfulness of the following:

Randolph G. Adams, Thomas Barbour, George H. Blakeslee, Guido Bruno, Edward F. Coffin, Thomas F. Currier, Mrs. U. Waldo Cutler, Mrs. Harriet M. Forbes, Mrs. Edgar A. Fisher, Miss Mabel C. Gage, Charles E. Goodspeed, George H. Haynes, Mrs. Marian H. Hornor, Mrs. Esther Forbes Hoskins, Matt B. Jones, Frank A. Lombard, Rev. Herbert E. Lombard, Dr. T. O. Mabbott, Douglas C. McMurtrie, Frederick G. Melcher, Miss May T. Mellus, Samuel Eliot Morison, William Inglis Morse, Victor Hugo Paltsits, Rev. Edgar L. Pennington, Mrs. Mary R. Reynolds, Albert W. Rice, John H. Scheide, Robert F. Seybolt, George Dudley Seymour, Robert K. Shaw, Mrs. Roswell Skeel, Jr., Wilbur Macey Stone, Thomas W. Streeter, Arthur Swann, Charles H. Taylor, D. Berkeley Updike, Henry R. Wagner, George T. Watkins, Frederick L. Weis, Wesley Bindery, Hamilton B. Wood, Worcester Chamber of Commerce, Worcester Public Library, Lawrence C. Wroth.

THE CARE OF THE LIBRARY

The behind-the-scenes work of our small staff has gone steadily forward during the past year. The more important new titles have been made quickly available and the other material placed where it may be conveniently consulted, always with the hope that a happy day will sometime come when an adequate staff can tackle the huge task of properly classifying and cataloging the undigested accumulations of a century. Our

large and important collection of literary first editions is now more than half catalogued, the dated pamphlet collection is finished through the year 1810, and the old collection of broken-up pamphlet volumes is three-fourths completed. Excellent progress has been made in placing our unbound pamphlets in dust-proof pamphlet boxes.

The Manuscript and Map and Print Divisions have kept abreast of the incoming mass of new material. Through the valuable assistance made possible by the Works Progress Administration, a careful rechecking of our manuscripts has resulted in the identification of hundreds of previously anonymous manuscripts and in bringing together materials on the same subject which were previously widely scattered.

Work is well under way on the cataloguing of the periodical collection, an important task being carried out by WPA assistants working under the supervision of the chief of the Newspaper and Periodical Division. The valuable aid being given our library by other WPA groups will be more fully covered in the Council report.

The assignment of a WPA assistant to the bindery has done much to speed up the work of that department. Many volumes of newspapers have been bound and hundreds of books repaired or rebound. Periodical files have been covered as completed and a large number of broadsides, maps and prints have been mounted or repaired with transparent silk. This skillful and hard-working department has done an unusually large amount of excellent work during the year.

Your librarian, in addition to his regular duties, has found time to deliver a number of addresses in various parts of New England and has entertained several clubs and local historical societies at the Library. Professor Morison of Harvard and Professor Lee of Clark have brought their seminars to the Library for instruction in the resources and use of the Society's collections. Through numerous articles and book reviews your librarian has been further able to keep

the Society before the public. He has also, in his spare time, continued his work as Permanent Secretary of the Bibliographical Society of America.

It is a satisfaction to be able to report that our Library has functioned smoothly and has done excellent work in making its resources available to the readers during the past year, in spite of restricted resources, inadequate staff and lack of room. The future outlook would be far from rosy were it not for our faith that our services to the world of scholarship must some day be recognized and an adequate endowment provided for the proper maintenance of America's greatest historical library.

Respectfully submitted,
R. W. G. VAIL,
Librarian

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