The Commoner

Lincoln, Neb.
May 31

My dear Mr. Berger,

I find your letter on my return to the city and thank you for looking into the house matters. I am satisfied you are right and satisfaction is as to the wisdom of buying the large house if we can. The larger house is from a pecuniary point of view the best but William and Helen preferred a smaller place. Helen preferred a smaller place for living and of course a reduction of $4700.

Yours truly,

W.J. Bryan.

“The Great Commoner” Writes About Family Matters


A chatty holograph letter from the political and social leader to one Mr. Berger, likely Alexander Berger, whose daughter, Helen Virginia Berger, married Bryan’s son, William Jennings Bryan, Jr., in 1909. Following is an excerpt:

“My dear Mr. Berger – I find your letter on my return to the city & thank you for looking into the house matters. I am satisfied you are right as to the wisdom of buying the larger house if we consider it from a pecuniary standpoint but William & Helen preferred a smaller place & having obtained a reduction to 4700 they decided to take it. They may lose a few hundred when they sell but if they have the benefit of it while they live there they can afford to lose a little. It is near the College and I think that adds to the value of it in a social way...I shall reach Grand Lake on the afternoon of June 23 & leave on the morning of the 25th. Yours truly, W.J. Bryan.”

$250.
Grover Cleveland Sells Law Books


During his second term President Grover Cleveland writes to Howard Van Sinderen, thanking him for handling the sale of some of Cleveland’s law books: “I received today the check you sent me for $125 20/100 being proceeds of the sale of law books on my a/c by Baker Voorhis & Co. Please accept my thanks for your trouble in the matter.” Howard Van Sinderen was a New York lawyer, descended from old Dutch stock in New York. Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms as president in 1885-89 and 1893-97. He apparently found it easier than most to sell used law books. $850.
Governor Coolidge Thanks a Supporter


Letter sent by Massachusetts Governor Calvin Coolidge to Alfred A. Welles of Springfield, Vermont, thanking him for his congratulations and support. The letter is signed in a secretarial hand, not by Coolidge.

$100.
Enthusiastic Letter About Emory’s Notes...

4. [Dearborn, Henry Alexander Scammell]: [Emory, William]: [AUTOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED, FROM HENRY ALEXANDER SCAMMELL DEARBORN TO JOHN JAMES ABERT, ABOUT THE UNITED STATES SURVEYING EXPEDITIONS]. [Hawthorne Cottage, Roxbury, Ma.] December 9, 1848. [1½]pp. on folded quarto sheet, blank integral leaf present. Light fold lines. Quite clean. Very good. In a half morocco box.

An engaging letter discussing the state of the United States and Mexican boundary survey, and particularly William Emory’s Notes of a Military Reconnoissance…, which was published shortly before this letter was written. Emory’s Notes was a landmark in the history of California and the Far Southwest, and includes some of the first American views of the region. In his letter to Col. Abert, whose son was a member of the expedition, Dearborn lauds the courage and accomplishments of the brash young gentlemen of the army, such as Emory and Abert’s son, for bringing honor to themselves and to the country. The letter reads:

“I am most grateful for Lt. Emory’s Reconnoissance in Mexico and California which you so kindly sent to me. I had before read from various Reports of his duties in the same expedition, as far as he descended the Rio Grande. I can not, insufficiently express [?] given the opinion I have formed of the meritorious labors of those officers. For scientific facts, in the geography, and natural history of those regions, the country is under the greatest obligations. Then how energetically, how cheerfully, how patriotically and how gallantly did they discharge their so various and multifarious duties. Such services not only reflect the highest honor on those estimable young gentlemen, and on the group to which they belong but on the country, which can boast of much accomplished officers.”

Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn, like his illustrious father, spent a career in public service, most famously as the collector of the port of Boston. At the time of writing Dearborn was the mayor of Roxbury, Massachusetts. His enthusiastic response to Emory’s report represents the optimism that Emory’s and other expedition reports fostered among influential members of the upper class. The underlying hope was that the lands acquired in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo would prove fruitful and offer a vast new arena for physical and economic expansion. DAB V, pp.176-77. Appleton’s Cyclopædia I, pp.8-9. $950.
The Copy Presented to Thomas Jefferson

5. Drake, Daniel: [Jefferson, Thomas]: NATURAL AND STATISTICAL VIEW, OR PICTURE OF CINCINNATI AND THE MIAMI COUNTRY, ILLUSTRATED BY MAPS. WITH AN APPENDIX, CONTAINING OBSERVATIONS ON THE LATE EARTHQUAKES, THE AURORA BOREALIS, AND SOUTH-WEST WIND. Cincinnati. 1815. 251,4pp. plus two folding maps. Contemporary tree calf, spine elaborately gilt, black leather label. A presentation binding, as this book was issued either in boards or in a plain sheep edition binding. Scattered foxing, else a fine copy. With a presentation inscription, as given below. In a half morocco and cloth box.

One of the most notable and important early Ohio books, by one of Cincinnati's most famous residents, in a remarkable copy inscribed on the front flyleaf: "For the honorable Thomas Jefferson with the respects of his very obedt. servt. Dan. Drake." The book, modeled on Jefferson's own Notes on the State of Virginia, covers the geography, antiquities, topography, medical conditions, and government of southern Ohio. "The work is almost entirely original, and has been drawn upon largely by all subsequent writers on the subject" – Thomson. The maps are a plan of Cincinnati and a map of Miami county.

The author, Dr. Daniel Drake, was one of the first great physicians in the West. He was involved in the founding of numerous Ohio and Kentucky institutions and wrote a number of important works, especially medical, on the area. This book, issued when he was thirty, was the first to achieve national notice. Despite the imprint date of 1815, a delay in obtaining the maps, which were engraved in Philadelphia while the book was printed in Cincinnati, delayed issue until Feb. 16, 1816.

One of Drake's good friends was Josiah Meigs, the commissioner of the General Land Office and an acquaintance of Jefferson. Drake asked Meigs to send Jefferson this presentation copy, and on March 1, 1816, Meigs wrote to Jefferson: “My friend Dr. Daniel Drake of Cincinnati, Ohio, has requested me to transmit to you a Copy of his work, entitled ‘Picture of Cincinnati.’ I presume it will gratify you as an elegant and valuable work.” Meigs also described Drake as “a sincere and faithful friend of our free Institutions,” signaling that Drake was a good Republican.
On April 7, 1816, Jefferson wrote to Meigs:

“I have referred [sic] asking the favor of you to return my thanks to Dr. Drake for the copy of his account of the state of Ohio which he has been so kind as to send me until I could have time to peruse it. I have done this with great pleasure and may now express my gratification on this able addition to the knowledge we possess of our different states; and I may say with truth that were all of them as well delineated as that which is the subject of this volume, we should be more accurately and scientifically known to the rest of the world. With my thanks for this mark of attention be pleased to accept the assurance of my great esteem & respect. Th: Jefferson.”

This volume would have come into Jefferson’s hands after the sale of his main collection to the Library of Congress in 1815, and so became part of his third and final library. Hence it does not figure in Sowerby’s catalogue of Jefferson’s library, and was one of the group of books widely dispersed after Jefferson’s death a decade later. It does not have Jefferson’s usual marks of ownership of his initials next to the signature letters; he may have assumed the presentation was identification enough.

A wonderful association copy of a significant book.

$75,000.
March 20, 1950

Dear Mr. Cole:

Despite your assurance that no answer was needed, I cannot pass the opportunity to thank you for a heartwarming and encouraging letter.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Mr. Ashley T. Cole
30 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Ike as President of Columbia


Letter sent to Ashley T. Cole by Dwight D. Eisenhower, then president of Columbia University, thanking him for his “heartwarming and encouraging letter.” Eisenhower was president of Columbia University from 1948 to 1953, immediately prior to his election as President of the United States.

$250.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
November 2, 1954

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Hostick:

Thank you very much for sending me the little book containing a report on the ceremonies at the dedication of the Battlefield of Gettysburg. As you point out, it is interesting and sad to note the lack of prominence given to one of the greatest utterances of all times.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in seeing that the volume reached me, and assure you it is a welcome addition to the library I hope to have at Gettysburg.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

[Dwight D. Eisenhower]

Mr. King V. Hostick
55 East Washington Street
Chicago 2, Illinois

PERSONAL

Eisenhower at Home at Gettysburg


It is not clear to us which book the Illinois manuscript dealer and Lincoln scholar Hostick gave Eisenhower, but President Eisenhower felt moved to write: “...As you point out, it is interesting and sad to note the lack of prominence given to one of the greatest utterances of all time...it is a welcome addition to the library I hope to have at Gettysburg....” The Eisenhowers had a small working farm just outside of Gettysburg, where the President retired in 1961 and where he died in 1969. He was an active supporter and Trustee of Gettysburg College.

$2500.
A Lovely Copy of Finley’s Pocket Atlas

8. Finley, Anthony: [A NEW AMERICAN ATLAS, DESIGNED PRINCIPALLY TO ILLUSTRATE THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA...]. Philadelphia: Anthony Finley, [1826]. Fifteen numbered, handcolored folding maps printed on fourteen onionskin sheets (Florida and West Indies maps printed on same sheet) and tipped to stubs, plus Index leaf mounted on front pasted down and Population leaf mounted on rear pastedown. Original red morocco wallet-style binding, flap stamped in gilt, “Finley’s American Atlas Sold by John Grigg” and his address. Binding rubbed and edgeworn, spine and flap ends neatly repaired. Several maps with neat, expert repairs along the folds, mending closed tears, a few short unrepaird splits at cross-folds. Minor foxing, some staining on the New York map. Very good. In a cloth chemise and half morocco and cloth clamshell case, spine gilt.

The rare pocket issue of Finley’s seminal atlas, without title-page, as issued, with maps dated 1825-26. The regularly-issued folio edition is also rare, but the pocket issue has evidently survived in a relatively small number of copies, and is not often found in such nice condition.

Finley published his atlases in the 1820s in direct competition with Henry Tanner, with the maps arranged much the same way and with the same level of skill as Tanner. This atlas was issued by Finley the same year as his own New American Atlas, and they are very similar in makeup, the differences being that the pocket issue has two maps combined on one sheet in the case of Florida and the West Indies; the maps are printed on onionskin paper for easier folding; and, of course, that the maps are folded into the wallet-sized format. The maps included here are enumerated on the
Index leaf, as follows: North America; the United States; Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont; Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island; New York; Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware; Virginia and Maryland; North and South Carolina and Georgia; Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama; Kentucky and Tennessee; Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and the Michigan Territory; Missouri and the Arkansas Territory; Florida, elevations of mountains, and the West Indies (two maps on one sheet); and South America.

The United States map is engraved with a note reading: “The publisher is indebted to the politeness of Major S. H. Long for the use of his documents in the construction of that portion of this Map west of the Mississippi river.” It also includes a diagram of the “Comparative Elevation of the Principal Mountains Cities &c. in North & South America,” marking active volcanoes.

“Finley’s 1826 A New American Atlas, Designed Principally to Illustrate the Geography of the United States of North America appears to have been a one-time effort. Most of the atlas maps carry the credit ‘Drawn by D. H. Vance,’ and all were engraved by J. H. Young. The same plates, with dates and publisher’s name changed, were used by S. Augustus Mitchell in 1831 for an atlas published under the same title as Finley’s 1826 volume” – Ristow.

A very rare and early surviving pocket atlas from one of the most esteemed American mapmakers of the 19th century.

Warmly Inscribed by Garrison to a Noted Abolitionist

9. Garrison, William Lloyd: SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS AND SPEECHES OF WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON. WITH AN APPENDIX. Boston: R.F. Wallcut, 1852. 416pp. Original green cloth, ruled and decorated in gilt, spine gilt extra, a.e.g. Contemporary inscription on front free endpaper (see below). Spine ends lightly frayed, cloth lightly rubbed and worn, hinges a bit tender, but secure. Uneven tanning to some signatures, last twenty pages beginning to separate from binding, faint tideline to lower corners. A very good copy overall.

Presentation copy of this collection of poems and essays by the ardent abolitionist, inscribed by Garrison to his friend and comrade, Nathan Winslow of Portland, Maine. Garrison's inscription in this volume reads: “Nathan Winslow, Portland, Me. With the warm regards and grateful remembrances of his old friend, Wm. Lloyd Garrison. Boston, May 28, 1852.” Winslow, a merchant who specialized in wood stoves, came from a long line of Quaker Winslows in Maine and became a leading figure in the state's anti-slavery movement. Winslow was present at the Philadelphia meeting which founded the National Anti-Slavery Society, signed his name on the Declaration of Sentiments, and became head of their chapter in Portland. Described as “one of the most thoroughgoing friends of the abolition cause in our land” in Garrison's biography, Winslow was a subscriber to The Liberator from the very first issue until his death in 1861, maintained a long correspondence with Garrison, and regularly hosted the great abolitionist and other speakers in his home. Winslow's daughter, Harriet Winslow Sewall, was a poet and became an activist in her own right, fighting for the abolition, women's rights, and labor movements.

First Mexican Emperor Commends a Young Officer


A brief note written by the first Mexican emperor, Agustín de Iturbide, in the months shortly before his coronation. In this message, written less than two months before Iturbide would finally win Mexican independence from Spain, the head of the revolutionary army conveys his appreciation for Don Blas Magaña. He tells the young soldier: “My dear friend: I never doubted that your sentiments were consistent with those of every good American and [that you] wish for the happiness of your country: and I trust that wherever you were you would have the same dreams of furthering a cause so just and dignified that it would be sounded by the trumpets of goodness” [our very rough translation]. Iturbide closes by stating that he will enthusiastically convey Magaña’s valuable qualities to General [Nicolás] Bravo, a hero of the Mexican War for Independence and early ally of Iturbide. Blas Magaña was at the time a young revolutionary military officer and, despite Iturbide’s near-immediate removal from power, would go on to serve in various government posts, most notably as a congressman and later governor of Querétaro. He eventually perished defending the liberal government in Querétaro from conservative forces under Tomás Mejía in 1856.

A rare autograph letter from one of the most important figures in Mexico’s struggle for independence. $850.
MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

CONTAINING HIS

COMMUNICATION

to

BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS,

AT THE

COMMENCEMENT

of the

FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH CONGRESS.

3d December, 1805.

Referred to a committee of the whole house on the state of the union.

CITY OF WASHINGTON:
A. & G. WAY, PRINTERS.
1805.
United States Senate
Office of the Democratic Leader
Washington, D.C.
September 5, 1955

Dear Mrs. Barber:

Lyndon has asked me to write and tell you how very much he appreciated and enjoyed your birthday message and how very sorry he was that you did not have an opportunity to leave a message when you drove through Johnson City. He is resting and relaxing on the ranch and making wonderful progress toward a complete recovery.

Thank you again for your birthday greetings to Lyndon and your good wishes for his recovery of health.

Sincerely,

Lady Bird Johnson

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. J. L. Barber
712 S. Sycamore Street
Palestein, Texas

Checking Up on LBJ Post-Heart Attack


Lady Bird Johnson writes to Mrs. J.L. Barber of Palestine, Texas:

“Lyndon asked me to write and tell you how very much he appreciated and enjoyed your birthday message and how very sorry he was that you did not have an opportunity to leave a message when you drove through Johnson City. He is resting comfortably and relaxing on the ranch making wonderful progress toward a complete recovery.”

Johnson suffered a heart attack in 1955, but recovered within a matter of months. He served as a senator from Texas from 1949 to 1961, when he was elected vice president with John F. Kennedy.

$250.
Advocating Settlement in Reconstruction-Era Louisiana


A scarce and interesting report that is tantamount to a Reconstruction-era promotional for the state of Louisiana, with commentary on emancipated African Americans in the state. The dramatic social revolution caused by the Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction is reflected in the present work. After the Civil War, Confederate nationalistic passions had not cooled sufficiently to encourage settlement in Louisiana. In fact, immigration seemed to be headed the other way, with “an emigration of thousands of our best citizens to the North,” according to the report.

Now, however, “an era of good feeling seems to be at hand.” A diversifying society, an abundance of crops, and respect for “the political opinions” of northern immigrants are all bringing positive changes to Louisiana. Emphasizing the necessity of peaceful race relations, Immigration Bureau Chief James Noyes counsels the former plantation owners, “Never did any one people under the sun owe a greater debt of gratitude to another than do the property owners of Louisiana to the blacks, just released from the hardships of slavery....The wonderful progress they have already made is the best possibly augury for their future.” The wrapper title reads: Report of James O. Noyes, Chief of the Bureau of Immigration to the General Assembly of Louisiana.

Quite uncommon, with OCLC recording just nine physical copies – seven under the title on the titlepage and two under the wrapper title. OCLC 82805252, 10640135, 82805252. $850.
November 24, 1910

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, 1910

At the
Manassas Industrial School, Manassas, Va.

Pass the Good Word Along, and Get Ready to be Present with Something to Exhibit.

HONORARY PRIZES WILL BE OFFERED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1. The best trio of this year's chickens, pure bred, any variety.
2. The best trio of young old chickens, pure bred, any variety.
3. The best pen of this year's chickens, any variety.
4. The best pen of old chickens, any variety.
5. The best peck of wheat.
6. The best peck of oats.
7. The best half bushel corn in the ear.
8. The best jar of preserves.
10. Best jar of canned fruit.
12. Best pumpkin.
13. Best half dozen heads of cabbage.
14. Best piece crocheted work.
15. Best piece of hemstitched work.
16. Best piece of hand embroidery.
17. Best oiled quilt.
18. Best silk quilt.
19. The best composition written by a boy in any of the rural schools.
20. The best composition written by a girl in any of the rural schools.
21. The best piece of hand work done in any of the rural schools.
22. Best home-made work dress.

Be sure to enter the competition for the prize in some one or more of these products. It is a good thing now and then to compare our work with our neighbor's to see how it stands.

Help us to make this the best meeting we have ever had at the Manassas Industrial School. DON'T MIND A LITTLE WEATHER. A little rain, a little snow, a little wind will hurt nobody. YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS WHAT WILL BE SAID and DONE. You must hear Dr. Jesse Jones and Mr. Charles K. Graham. THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU. REMEMBER YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THEM. And they are not all who will have a word.

The whole program will be conducted within doors in our comfortable new buildings. You will want to see these anyhow.

The sessions will begin at TEN O'CLOCK PROMPTLY. Be sure to reach the school in time for the first word and plan to stay until the last word is said. If necessary, come to the school on Wednesday evening. Accommodations will be provided to the extent of the school's ability.

THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA UNION BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION will have a report to make of the work that the Convention is doing to promote the cause of education.

There will be good music at the opening and close of both morning and afternoon session.

In the evening at eight o'clock the students of the school will give an entertainment, the proceeds of which will be used for class room equipment in the new school building. Admission fee will be ten cents. Refreshments will be served.

Bring along a Coin or two for the Alliance. These Meetings Cost Money.

Virginia’s Most Important Secondary School for African Americans


An unrecorded flyer advertising Thanksgiving Day programming at the Manassas Industrial School (MIS) in Virginia. This flyer advertises a Thanksgiving meeting and fair in 1910, which is to include prizes for best livestock, vegetables, crochet, quilting, and written compositions for boys and girls. It goes on to firmly advise the reader not to “mind a little weather,” as one “cannot afford to miss what will be said and done.” The speakers at the event included Dr. Jesse Jones and Mr. Charles K. Graham – “they have something to tell you. Remember you cannot afford to miss them.” Finally, attendees are urged to “bring along a coin or two for the Alliance. These meetings cost money.”

The Manassas Industrial School was founded in 1894 as a co-educational residential secondary school for African-American youths by Jane Serepta Dean. Dean was born into slavery in Virginia in the 1850s; after several years of teaching and advocating for Sunday schools, she established the MIS as a way to keep young Black students from the distasteful aspects of urban life. She was also an advocate of women’s suffrage and became a friend and acquaintance of Emily Howland, who became a teacher at the school. Frederick Douglass delivered a speech at the school’s dedication, and the Chairman of the Board was O.G. Villard, co-founder of the NAACP. For decades it stood as the only secondary school for African Americans in Northern Virginia, and was notably untethered to any particular religious group (despite a focus on traditional morals and general piety). While it finally closed its doors in 1959, the site of the school was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

An interesting piece of ephemera from a major African-American educational institution with strong ties to women’s suffrage and the NAACP. $375.

This copy is inscribed by George H. Moore on the half title, and tipped in at the front is a letter from the famed historian, George Bancroft, to the book’s first owner, I.K. Tefft, written in New York, May 17, 1858. In the letter Bancroft thanks Tefft for providing him with a correction in one of Bancroft’s works. Bancroft goes on to discuss the character of Charles Lee and asserts that historians now have written proof of Lee’s treason: “Lee was a traitor to everybody that trusted him...I have read in his own paper worse than Arnold’s, and all in his own handwriting.” Tefft was a Savannah businessman, autograph collector, and a founder of the Georgia Historical Society in 1839. His autograph collection was sold at auction in 1867.

Moore was one of the first authors to bring to light the document Lee composed for General Howe during his British captivity, to aid the British in the defeat of the American army during the Revolution. The manuscript, a facsimile of which is included here, was found among the Strachey papers in 1858 and is now generally deemed as proof that Lee was a traitor.

SABIN 50380. $450.
A rare and well-preserved copy of the *Proceedings* from the June, September, and December 1786 sessions of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. All three sessions were issued separately as well as together, as here; Evans records them separately. Included are petitions submitted for consideration from the House, communications from the Senate, votes (with lists of who voted Yeas and Nays), approvals to build roads and churches, as well as notes on more colorful incidents, such as the aftermath from the Paper Money Riot (Exeter Rebellion) of September 20, 1786. In the wake of the Revolution, the country as well as individual states, cities, and many citizens were deeply in debt. The lack of specie and paper currency in circulation made the payment of debts difficult. Many New Hampshire towns drafted petitions to the legislature over the issue of paper currency, calling for the printing of paper money in the form of paper notes on credit, but the legislature did not act quickly enough for many. Eventually rebels in Rockingham County armed themselves and marched on Exeter (where the September session was meeting) to demand that the New Hampshire General Court immediately issue paper currency. President (i.e. governor) John Sullivan was able to calm the situation long enough to muster the militia, which subdued and dispersed the mob. Several mob leaders and others were captured and arrested, but were all eventually pardoned. However, rebels who had also been militia members were dismissed.
Accordingly, for the following day of the session (September 21), the House “Voted, That the President be requested to return the thanks of both Houses to the brave officers and soldiers of the militia, for the great zeal and alacrity they have discovered in supporting the constitutional authority of the state; and for displaying a spirit of patriotism and publick virtue....” The House also established a committee, including members of the Senate, “to take into consideration what method shall be taken, respecting the prisoners taken this day, and report thereon.”

New Hampshire was the first state in the emerging United States to draft a constitution. On January 5, 1776, six months before the U.S. claimed self-government, New Hampshire issued its first constitution; the House of Representatives was established the following day. A new constitution was approved in 1784, and this version remains in force, albeit with a number of amendments. Determined to keep the government truly of the people, New Hampshire founders fixed the size of the House of Representatives as a direct ratio to the state’s population. The first House consisted of 87 members, each one representing 100 families. As the population increased, the number of representatives grew, until there were 443. In 1942 a constitutional amendment limited the size of the House to 400, but not less than 375 members. As a result, the New Hampshire House is the largest state legislative body in the country.

George Jerry Osborne (1761-1800) was a leading printer in Portsmouth. In addition to printing the journals of the House (John Melcher printed the Senate journals), he also published (with John Osborne) Osbornes’ New-Hampshire Spy, the leading Federalist newspaper in the state and the official newspaper and personal platform of General John Sullivan, then governor of New Hampshire, and the person who spearheaded the state’s ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

OCLC lists copies at Dartmouth, the American Antiquarian Society, Faulkner University, and the Library Company of Philadelphia.

WHITTEMORE 420, 421, 422. ESTC W32823. EVANS 19819, 19820, 20550. $975.

A handsome Broadway street scene from this highly important and very rare United States view book. According to Stokes, this is “one of the most picturesque and interesting early views of Broadway and City Hall.” The engraving shows City Hall on the left in the immediate distance, with a long view down Broadway, which is lined with trees and houses and bustling with carriages and foot traffic. Several stray dogs and groups of pedestrians bustle about the foreground. “One of the European artists to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their skillful rendering of scenes in the young American republic is Baron Axel Leonhard Klinckowstrom. A Swedish aristocrat, Klinckowstrom spent three years in the United States (1818-20) as an official emissary of his country, traveling widely and taking a lively interest in all he saw” – Deák. A rare plate, tastefully colored by a modern hand and prime for display.

HOWES K201. DEAK, PICTURING AMERICA 310, 322. SABIN 38053. STOKES 3:563. $2500.
“...it is a curious paradox that enlightened nations should have less sense than enlightened individuals.”


A politically-charged letter from Thomas Paine to his friend, William Petty, former Earl of Shelburne, who was made the first Marquess (or Marquis) of Lansdowne in 1784. Petty was Prime Minister when the treaty ending the Revolutionary War was negotiated between the United States and England. In this letter Paine discusses the tense relationship between England and France, and stresses the importance of an amicable resolution to their differences. He writes that “this infamous business of perpetual wrangling between England & France...would be called by a coarser name” if the conflict was between two individuals instead of two nations, warning of the potentially cataclysmic results of a war.

Here the author of Common Sense opens his letter by extending his thanks to Lansdowne for the kind invitation to the latter's country home, Bowood House, and explains:

“I had the honour of receiving your Lordship's favour of the 27th Sepr. and am much obliged to you for the kind and genteel invitation you gave me into the country. I had written to your Lordship my thanks and discanted a little on the then state of affairs, but they appearing to grow every day more perplexing, I determined to lay it aside – this, together with the hopes of seeing your Lordship in town at an earlier period, than mentioned in your letter will, I hope, interest you to excuse the omission.”

Paine proceeds to expound on the precarious political situation between France and England, ultimately hoping for a lasting peace between the two nations:
“Sincerely do I wish that this infamous business of perpetual wrangling between England & France might end. It would be called by a coarser name than I choose to express were a like case to happen between two individuals; and it is a curious paradox that enlightened nations should have less sense than enlightened individuals. I most heartily wish that some great line of Politics, worthy of an opposition might be struck out. Peace might be easily preferred were proper persons in the management of affairs. There are those in France who would very heartily concur in such a measure, and unless this be done, it appears, at least to me, that something worse than war will follow, for tho’ France is not in a good condition for war, England is still worse.”

Paine concludes his letter noting he is enclosing a pamphlet (not present here) which has just made its appearance. He is most likely referring to his own work, *Prospects on the Rubicon; or An Investigation into the Causes and Consequences of the Politics to Be Agitated at the Meeting of Parliament*, published the same year in London. The present letter could be viewed as a distillation of this latest pamphlet by Paine, in which he urges the British government to reconsider yet another war with France that would result in disaster for both countries. At the time, England and France were not currently at war with each other, but the possibility of it was omnipresent, especially after battling on opposite sides of the American Revolution, which resulted in weaker defenses and larger debts for both countries.

Paine, an Englishman who emigrated to America just in time to help spark the American Revolution, would become enmeshed in the French Revolution shortly after penning this letter. He moved to France in 1790, and would publish his seminal *Rights of Man* in 1791, in full-throated support of the French Revolution. *Rights of Man* was another successful attack by Paine on the institution of monarchy. As a result, Paine was a hero to the revolutionaries in France, though he would fall in and out of favor with various regimes in Paris until he left France for good in 1802.

William Petty, second Earl of Shelburne and later the first Marquis of Lansdowne, is best remembered as the Prime Minister who forced a liberal peace treaty with the United States on his unwilling king in 1782. During his long political career Shelburne exhibited consistently pro-American sympathies, first as Southern Secretary from 1766 to 1768, and most importantly as Prime Minister from 1782 to 1783. Though Prime Minister for only a short time, it was under Shelburne’s leadership that the Treaty of Paris was negotiated between Great Britain and her rebellious colonies, ending the Revolution and formally recognizing the United States of America. After his elevation to Marquess and retirement from active politics, Lansdowne maintained an active sympathy for Americans and their new nation, and commissioned the famed “Lansdowne Portrait” of George Washington, perhaps the most famous image of the first President.

The present letter was first sold at Christie’s London in 1994 in the auction of the historical archives held by Petty’s country estate, Bowood House, which Paine references in this letter. Since then the letter has been accompanied by a copy of the 1791 edition of Paine’s *A Letter to the Earl of Shelburne, Now Marquis of Lansdowne, on His Speech, July 10, 1782, Respecting the Acknowledgement of American Independence*. This was Paine’s response to Shelburne’s speech regarding the likely consequences for Great Britain given the new independence of America. The present copy of the work carries a pencil inscription on the half title reading, “bought 1933 L,” likely written by the then-current Marquis of Lansdowne in that year.

A thoughtful letter by Paine as he grappled with the fraught political climate in France and England. It is interesting to note that this letter comes from the writer most responsible for sparking the American Revolution, writing to one of the men chiefly responsible for ending it. $25,000.
Paine Expresses Thanks for Being Elected to the French National Convention

19. [Paine, Thomas]: A LETTER FROM M. CONDORCET, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION, TO A MAGISTRATE IN SWISSERLAND, RESPECTING THE MASSACRE OF THE SWISS GUARDS ON THE 10th OF AUGUST, &c. WITH A LETTER FROM THOMAS PAINE, TO THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE, ON HIS ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. TO WHICH IS ADDED, AN ABSTRACT OF THAT SYSTEM OF DESPOTISM, WHICH HAS BEEN OVERTURNED BY THE FRENCH.... New York. 1793. 29pp. Dbd. Tanned, some scattered foxing, else very good.

“Thomas Paine was now world famous as a liberal and considered most knowledgeable in the new republican form of government...his defense of the French Revolution so endeared him to the French people that he had been elected by four French provinces to represent them in the National Convention” – Gimbel. Paine’s first remarks to the Convention, in the form of a thank-you to his electors, are reprinted herein.
EVANS 25327. GIMBEL 75 (ref). $650.
EL CORONEL PREFECTO
DEL DEPARTAMENTO,
A SUS HABITANTES.

Cuzco 15 de Octubre de 1837.

Anselmo Centeno.
A Divine Hand Controls the Weather in Colonial New England


Sermon analyzing God’s reasons for sending a drought and offering up thanksgiving for his relief of the present Massachusetts drought. Based on a text from Job.
EVANS 6408. SABIN 65606. $400.
As the First Continental Congress Convenes,
American Quakers Express Their Loyalty to King George III


An important and notably loyalist Quaker epistle from the Philadelphia yearly meeting in 1774. The first part of the letter sets out a brief history of the church up to the Friends’ oppression in England and subsequent voyage to “New-Jersey and Pennsylvania [where they] were entrusted with as full enjoyment of religious and civil liberty, as the solemn sanction of the charters granted by the King, could assure to them and their posterity.” As a result, the letter urges Friends “to remember, that as under Divine Providence we are indebted to the King and his royal ancestors, for the continued favour of enjoying our religious liberties, we are under deep obligations to manifest our loyalty and fidelity, and that we should discourage every attempt which may be made by any to excite disaffection or disrespect to him, and particularly to manifest our dislike of all such writings as are, or may be published of that tendency.” The letter goes on to emphasize that part of that loyalty also means being “careful not to defraud the King of his customs and duties, nor to be concerned in dealing in goods unlawfully imported....”

American Quakers found themselves in a precarious situation during the Revolutionary period. While it was not uncommon or unexpected for Quakers to take a pacifist stance (although a number of them did join the Revolutionary cause), it was less clear whether it was acceptable to support the Revolution (or the Crown) in a less direct manner. This letter is signed in letterpress by James Pemberton (1723-1809), then Clerk of the Philadelphia Meeting, abolitionist, and a prominent Philadelphia merchant, who had clashed regularly with the Quaker establishment over wars against the Delaware Indians in the 1750s. Pemberton clashed with
them again as the Revolution broke out and in 1777 was eventually exiled to Virginia, along with twenty other men, by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for perceived Loyalist sympathies, and because he refused to accept the legitimacy of the new Pennsylvania government or to accept the new Continental currency. The exile was brief, and Pemberton was back in Philadelphia and active with the Meeting by April 1778.

Uncommon in the trade.

SMITH I, 761. EVANS 13285. HILDEBURN 3010. ESTC W31918.

$3250.
The first full business directory for the city of Pierre, South Dakota, founded in 1880, following a small city directory published in 1883. In the 1890 census Pierre boasted around 3,200 residents—a number which did not increase appreciably until around 1940. Interestingly, the directory mentions the census numbers, lamenting that the census has not accurately recorded the grand population of the place, which really ought to be counted closer to 4,000 or more. Moreover, the publishers claim Pierre to be ideally situated and drawing the best citizens from all corners: “Pierre is fortunate in having attracted to herself a population comprising the very cream of Eastern brain and brawn, before whose enterprise and broad liberality no difficulties can stand.”

The Preface begins: “The publishers of this first volume of the city directory of ‘Peerless Pierre’ desire to take the first opportunity of thanking the stirring, energetic citizens and business men for the patronage and assistance which alone render such a publication possible.” As the subtitle attests, the directory covers private citizens; businesses; state, county, and local officials; public and Private Schools; banks; churches; and “secret” and benevolent societies, as well as a “complete classified business directory.” The businesses advertising here include hotels, real estate agents, the Pierre Daily Capital and Pierre Free Press newspapers, several brick contractors and suppliers, and many other businesses listed alphabetically by type.

OCLC records just two copies of this foundational South Dakota city directory, at Yale and Minnesota Historical.

OCLC 54304115, 20953387.

$1500.
Prominent Suffragist and Temperance Advocate
Writes to a Noted Female Doctor and Author
About Women’s Health


Frances Willard thanks Dr. Alice Stockham for sending along a copy of Stockham’s book on childbirth and women’s health. Though the title of the book is not mentioned, it is almost certainly Stockham’s Tokology: A Book for Every Woman. Originally published in 1883, it went through several editions. Alice B. Stockham (1833-1912) was an obstetrician and gynecologist and one of the first American women to earn a medical degree. Frances Willard (1839-1898) was prominent in both the suffrage and temperance movements, and was influential in the passage of the 18th and 19th amendments (prohibition and votes for women, respectively); she also helped found the Woman’s National Christian Temperance Union in 1874. Willard’s platform of “Home Protection” as the premise behind suffrage was designed to appeal to women everywhere. She held that if a woman had the right to vote, she could better protect her home and family and improve society.

To Dr. Stockham, she writes:

“Dear friend, Do not think me unappreciative of your kindness, but I am always so pre-occupied that I do ‘dip’ into any book, no matter how excellent. I have thought yours of this class so far as I had opportunity & could judge. My sister brought me one, loaned by you (when I was ill) of unique & most interesting character. I doubt not she has read it more at length than I, as I had to leave home when barely up again. This hasty line is to assure you of my appreciation of your kindness in sending the book.”

$1500.
Wilson Accepts Praise for One of His Books, and Displays His Southern Roots


Letter written to fellow Democrat George C. Pendleton by Woodrow Wilson, thanking Pendleton for his praise of Wilson’s History of the American People (1902), and for noting a mistake. Pendleton was a Confederate soldier and later a Texas politician. Wilson writes:

“I very warmly appreciate your kind letter of November 7th, and it is particularly gratifying to me when men of my own section of the country can utter such warm praise of my History of the American People. I am also deeply in your obligation for calling my attention to the mistakes of detail, which I shall be pleased to note for a revision of the book, should such a revision be called for under my arrangements with the publishers. Allow me to thank you also for your kindness in sending me a copy of the address which you delivered at the Confederate Reunion at Belton, Texas, last summer. It will give me real pleasure to read it.”

This letter was written while Wilson was president of Princeton University (1902-1910); his five-volume History... was expanded to ten volumes and reprinted in 1918. $600.
A satirical assault on the Scottish church, based on the fictional story of a community of castaways abandoned during Lord Anson’s voyage to South America. According to the story, one of Anson’s ships, the Wager, is lost while sailing the South Seas during his circumnavigation of 1741. A good number of the survivors sail the lifeboat through the Straits of Magellan to Brazil. As they travel north, they are forced to skirt the coast line so they can occasionally swim to shore for food and water. While still near the mouth of the Straits, a great storm blows up and prevents eight of them from returning to the boat. Of these eight, four are quickly killed by the natives, but four survive to be carried off to the kingdom of a far-off prince where the majority of the narrative takes place. One of these sailors survives to make it back to Great Britain, and ostensibly he has related an account of his adventures and this strange kingdom to Witherspoon. This survivor witnessed a particular incident where a servant saves the life of the king at the last moment. In gratitude, the prince decides to elevate the position of all his servants. With their new wealth, they slide into laziness, and the power of the prince is compromised. It was Witherspoon’s intention to apply this parable to the condition of the Scottish church and the increasing complacency of its clergy. Witherspoon, a noted clergyman, would emigrate to America in 1768 to become president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton), and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. A London edition also appeared in 1765.

SABIN 104938. OCLC 28885512. $850.
Pictorial account of the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, published as a propaganda piece to support and commemorate the endeavor. Photographs are captioned in Japanese, and include images of Japanese soldiers involved in actions all over the Philippines, as well as a grateful populace. One image shows Japanese soldiers handing out treats to Filipino children. There are also several photographs of American POWs; one image shows men lying in hospital beds, others show them seated in large groups. An interesting pictorial history. $750.
A unique and interesting typescript documenting a Yale senior trip to visit various industries. The author, A.R. Dunning, Class of 1929, writes in the Foreword:

“In writing my reminiscences [sic] of the inspection trip, I am afraid that I have not followed a definite enough course of procedure, but have allowed myself to wander about aimlessly, writing what I felt when and how it pleased me....And I am sure that I will better appreciate my own childish viewpoints herein expressed, when, as an old man I look back and find one tangible evidence of my college life, than to discover that the transportation facilities of National Dog Biscuit were insufficient thirty years ago.”

He does, however, thank Professor Seward and the rest of the faculty for organizing the trip and for their excellent choice of the industries visited.

The trip covered four states (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Michigan) and included visits to fourteen businesses: AT&T; Wright Aeronautical Corp.; Edison Laps Works & Lighting Institute of General Electric; Hardwick & Magee Wilton Rugs & Carpets; High Pressure Pumping Station; Sears, Roebuck; Carnegie Steel Co. Rolling Mills Homestead Plant; Carnegie Steel Co. Blast Furnaces; Carnegie Steel By-Product Coke Plant; Universal Portland Cement Co.; Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co.; Cadillac Motor Car Co.; and Ford Motor Co. Dunning gives brief reports about each industry and expresses his youthful opinions. He comments that at AT&T there were perhaps too many people on the payroll, “a great number of men roaming about the halls seemingly unattached from any responsibility in the company yet no doubt adding considerably
to the cost of operation.” Recognizing production was not the primary consideration in a research lab, he nevertheless has trouble understanding “why an organization as efficiently managed and modernly equipped as the American Telephone and Telegraph Company should permit itself the folly of supporting a research laboratory so loosely controlled and so haphazardly operated.” Wright Aeronautical Corp. fared a bit better: “an outstanding example of modern industrial development.” Dunning could imagine himself working for Westinghouse, though he concludes about the Edison Lamp Works: “while our visit here was very interesting in a negative sort of way, the guides seemed to take us for a ladies’ sewing circle, which had come to see all the pretty lighting arrangements.”

Dunning studied Mechanical Engineering at Yale. Some of the items tipped into this volume include an 8 x 11-inch group photograph of the students and professors on the trip posed in front of Westinghouse; a brochure advertising the Wright “Whirlwind Engine,” showing some of the planes in which it was used; four photo postcards of the Ford Motor Co. in Detroit; several programs for banquets, including speakers and menus; several other pieces on the Wright engine and aeronautics; and promotional brochures for some of the companies visited.