AMERICAN

HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES;

CONSISTING OF

FAC-SIMILES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE EVENTS OF THE REVOLUTION, &c. &c.

WITH A VARIETY OF

RELIQUES, ANTIQUITIES,

AND

MODERN AUTOGRAPHS.

COLLECTED AND EDITED

BY

JOHN JAY SMITH,
MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AND

JOHN F. WATSON,
ANNALIST OF PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.

ASSISTED BY AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUARIANS.

SIXTH EDITION; WITH IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS.

NEW YORK:
G. P. PUTNAM.
1861.

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The Project Gutenberg eBook of American Historical and Literary Curiosities, Part 07

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL

AND

LITERARY CURIOSITIES

By John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

Part 7.

PREFACE

TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

FIRST SERIES.

THE past has a charm for Americans, as well as for the inhabitants of countries whose history extends far into the shadowy and unknown; *our* early and romantic past has the merit of being known and truly related; everything which adds to these truths is sought for with avidity by the curious and intelligent inquirer. We have now many autograph collectors, who may be viewed in the light of preservers of documents which would otherwise perish or be dispersed; to few, comparatively, are their treasures revealed. It was suggested, therefore, that a few of the most rare and curious "Historical and Literary Curiosities" in the possession of individuals, should be grouped for the amusement and instruction of the present and of future generations, who may well know from printed accounts *what* things were done, but who can also thus learn *how* they were done.

Nearly all the articles in the present collection have been taken by competent artists from the originals of which they purport to be fac-similes. Considerable labor and trouble have been expended in collecting together the varied materials here presented; but it has been with the Editors a "labor of love," rewarded by the pleasure of the pursuit.

The work having been received with extraordinary favor by the public, and a fifth edition being called for, some additions and alterations have been made, which will create increased interest in the volume.

J. JAY SMITH,
JOHN F. WATSON.

*** Fully to understand the work, it is necessary, in turning over the pages, to have constant reference to the Table of Contents, where will be found many explanations for which space could not be found on the plates.

NOTE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

Notwithstanding the announcement in the second series of this work that the first would not be reprinted, the public has demanded a sixth edition, which has been entirely redrawn, and many highly interesting additions have been made.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1860.

Part Seven

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Written by T. Moore and addressed to a lady of Philadelphia.

Alone by the Schuylkill a wanderer rov'd,
And bright were its flowery banks to his eye;
But far very far were the friends that he lov'd,
And he gazd on its flowery banks with a sigh –
Oh Nature tho blessed and bright are thy ways
O'er the brow of Creation enchantingly thrown,
How faint are they all to the lustre that plays
In a smile from the heart that is dearly our own.

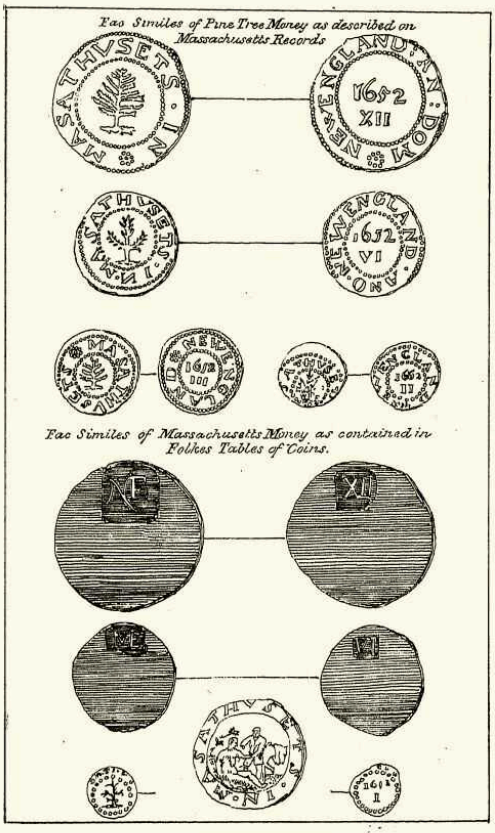
Nor long did the soul of the stranger remain,
Unblest by the smile he had languished to meet –
Ah. scarce did he hope it would bless him again,
Till the threshold of Home had been kist by his feet
But the lays of his boyhood had stole to their ear,
And they lov'd, what they knew of so humble a name,
And they told him with flattery welcome and dear,
That they found in his heart something sweeter than fame –
Nor did Woman — oh Woman! whose form and whose soul
Are the spell and the light of each path we pursue;
Whether sunn'd in the tropics or chill'd at the Pole,
If Woman be there, there is happiness too! —

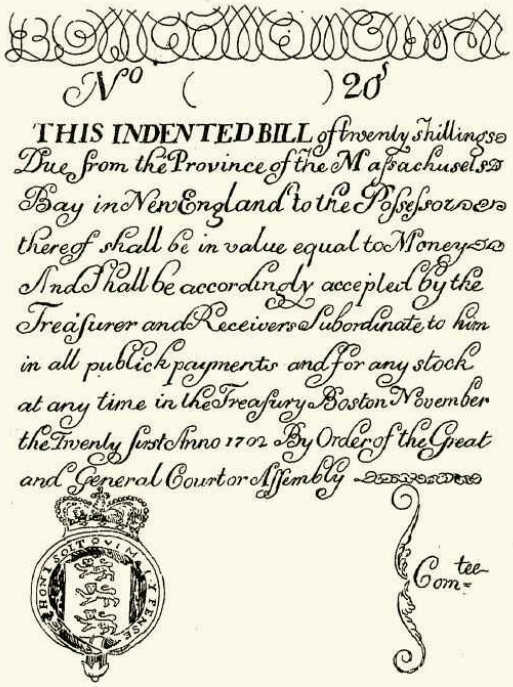
Nor did she her enamouring magic deny
(That magic his heart had relinquish'd so long)
Like eyes he had lov'd was her eloquent eye
Like them did it soften and weep at his song –
Oh! blest be the tear, and in memory oft
May its sparkle be shed o'er his wandering dream –
Oh! blest be the eye, and may passion as soft
As free from a pang ever mellow its beam
The Stranger is gone – but he will not forget,
When, at home, he shall talk of the toil he has known,
To tell, with a sigh what endearments he met,
As he strayd by the wave of the Schuylkill alone!

T. M.

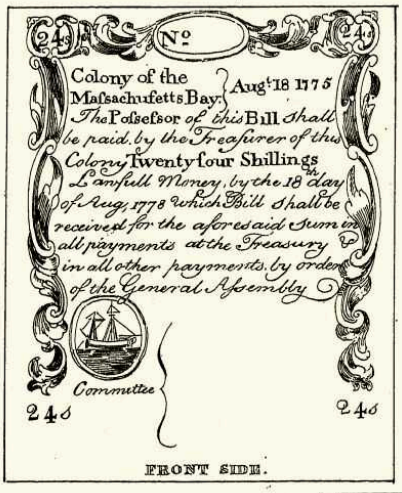
I thought Francis had paid the Boot maker for me but if Maxwell will put it in my bill to him. I shall discharge it from Halifax —

Enlarge





A Fac Simile of a Massachusetts Treasury Note. Such currency, as issued in 1690, had a Circle which enclosed L.S. on the left opposite the place for the Committees names. This circle was substituted on the Bill here presented by a likeness of the Royal Seal to render the counterfeiting of it more difficult.



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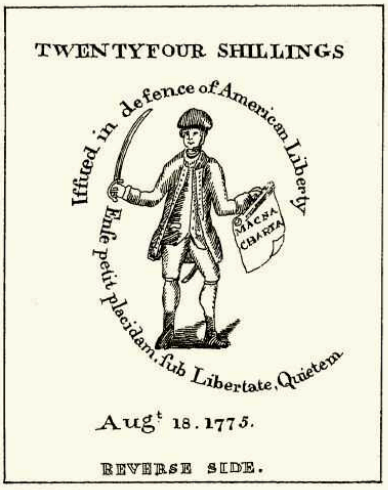

REVERSE SIDE.

N. E. Numb. 1.

The Boston News-Letter.

Head of the First **Published by Authority.** American Newspaper

From Monday April 17. to Monday April 24. 1704

Boston: Printed by *B. Green* Sold by *Nicholas Boone*, at his Shop near the Old Meeting-House,

Enlarge

THE FIRST AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.

The Boston News-Letter.—There was not a newspaper published in the English colonies, throughout the extreme continent of North America, until the 24th of April, 1704. It was printed on half a sheet of pot-paper, with a small pica type, folio. The first page is filled with an extract from the *London Flying Post*, respecting the Pretender, who styles himself James the Eighth of Scotland. The Queen's speech in Parliament on that occasion, a few articles under the Boston head, four short paragraphs of marine intelligence from New York, Philadelphia, and New London, and one advertisement, form the entire contents.

The proprietor says, "The News-Letter is to be continued weekly, and all persons who have houses, lands, farms, tenements, ships, goods, wares, merchandise, &c. &c., to be sold or let, or servants run away, or goods stole or lost, may have them inserted at a reasonable rate from two pence to five shillings." It was published by John Campbell, a Scotchman, who was a bookseller and postmaster, and was entitled "The Boston News-Letter. Published by Authority." The imprint is, "Boston: Printed by B. Green. Sold by Nicholas Boone, at his Shop near the Old Meeting-House."

In a volume of a newspaper published in Virginia in 1733, we find an article extracted from the Boston News-Letter, under date of

"*Boston, Jan.* 4, 1733.—On Thursday last, being Dec. 28th, Died here, after a long and painful languishment, of a sore that broke inwards, Mr. Bartholomew Green, one of the Deacons of the South Church, who has been the principal Printer of this town and country near forty years. He died in the 67th year of his age, being born at Cambridge, Oct. 12, 1666. And was here very decently interred on the 2d current. His father was Capt. Samuel Green, the famous Printer of Cambridge, who arrived with Gov. Winthorp in 1630: He came in the same ship with the Honourable Thomas Dudley, Esq., and used to tell his children that upon their first coming ashore both he and several others were for some time glad to lodge in an empty cask to shelter them from the weather for want of housing. This Capt. Green was a commission officer of the military company of Cambridge, who chose him for above 60 years together; and he died there January 1, 1701–2, aged 87, highly esteemed and beloved both for piety and a natural genius. He took such great delight in the military exercise, that the arrival of their training days would always raise his joy and spirit, and when he was grown so old and aged that he could not walk, he would be carried out in the chair into the field to view and order his company. He had 19 children by his first wife, and 11 by his second, who was a daughter of the venerable elder Clark of Cambridge; of which 11 children there is this remarkable; that though two died young, yet of the other nine there died not one for fifty-two years; the first breach being made about eight years and a half ago.

"This Mr. Green, whose loss we deplore, set up his press with his father at Cambridge, and afterwards removed to Boston, where on Sept. 16, 1690, soon after he was first married, his press and letters, which were then esteemed the best that had been in the country, were consumed by a fire that began in the neighbourhood; upon which he returned to Cambridge, and there continued until the winter 1692–3, when he came back to Boston, where he has been Printer to the Governor and Council for near forty years, and of the Boston News-Letter (excepting a small intermission) from its beginning.

"And for his particular character: He was a person generally known and esteemed among us, as a very humble and exemplary Christian, one who had much of that primitive Christianity in him, which has always been the distinguishing glory of New England. We may further remark his eminency for a strict observance

of the Sabbath; his household piety; his keeping close and diligent to the work of his calling; his meek and peaceable spirit; his caution of publishing any thing offensive, light or hurtful; and his tender sympathy to the poor and afflicted. He begun to be pious in the days of his youth; and he would always speak of the wonderful spirit of piety that then prevailed in the land with a singular pleasure."

The first Green died in 1702; and until the Revolution, in 1775, Boston was not without one or more printers of the name. Many of the same name doubtless spread from the large family of this pioneer of printers. One of the name removed early to Annapolis and established the Maryland Gazette, which continued for nearly one hundred years in the same family. The first English edition of the Bible published in this country was in 1752—printed by Kneeland and Greene.

Thomas Fleet established the Boston Evening Post in 1735—was industrious and economical, free from superstition, and possessed (says Thomas) a fund of wit and humour, which was often displayed in his paragraphs and advertisements. He was born in England, and there learned his trade. Fleet advertised a negro woman for sale as follows: "To be sold by the Printer of this paper, the very best Negro Woman in this town, who has had the small-pox and the measles; is as hearty as a horse, as brisk as a bird, and will work like a beaver." Aug. 23, 1742. In No. 50 of the Boston Evening Post, he has the following:—"We have lately received from an intelligent and worthy friend in a neighbouring government, to the southward of us, the following remarkable piece of news, which we beg our reader's patience to hear, viz. that the printer there gets a great deal of money, has twenty shillings for every advertisement published in his newspaper, calls *us* fools for working for nothing, and has lately purchased an estate of fourteen hundred pounds' value. We should be heartily glad (had we cause for it) to return our friend a like surprising account of the printer's prosperity here. But alas the reverse of our brother's circumstances seems hereditary to us: It is well known we are the most humble, self-denying set of mortals (we wish we could say men) breathing; for where there is a penny got, we readily resign it up to those who are no ways related to the business, nor have any claim or pretence to the advantages of it." In a note it is added that the worthy friend was supposed to be James Franklin, nephew to Dr. Franklin, who was established at Rhode Island, where at that time the paper currency was much depreciated.

James Franklin established a third newspaper in Boston in 1721. Franklin's father and many of his friends were inimical to the project. They supposed (says Thomas) that one newspaper was enough for the whole continent; and they apprehended that another must occasion absolute ruin to the printer. Before twelve months had transpired Franklin was taken into custody, publicly censured and imprisoned for publishing what were called "scandalous libels," &c. A club of writers contributed for the paper—in it they attacked some of the religious opinions of the day—it was hostile to the clergy. January 14, 1723, an order passed the council "That James Franklin be strictly forbidden by this court to print or publish the New England Courant or any pamphlet or paper of the like nature, except it be first supervised by the Secretary of the Province." Franklin evaded this order, on advice of the club, by substituting his brother Benjamin's name in the imprint: the latter was apprentice to James. In this name, the Courant continued to be published three years.

The third newspaper issued in America was the American Weekly Mercury, at Philadelphia; of this we have given specimens, and a fac simile of the first number of the Pennsylvania Gazette, edited by Dr. Franklin.

The first *daily* paper in the United States was the Pennsylvania Packet, 1784, afterwards Poulson's Daily Advertiser.

THis Day Run away from *John Mr Comb*, Junier, an Indian Woman, about 17 Years of Age, Pitted in the face, of a middle Stature and Indifferent ſett having on her a Drugat, Waſtcoat, and Kerſey Petticoat, of a Light Collour. If any Perſon or Perſons, ſhall bring the ſaid Girle to her ſaid Maſter, ſhall be Rewarded for their Trouble to their Content

American weekly mercury May 24 1726

A Servant Maids Time for Four Years to be ſold by *John Copſon*,

Ditto Jan 2 1721.

A Very likely Negro Woman to be ſold, aged about 28 Years, fit for Country or City Buſineſs, She can Card, Spin, Knit and Milk; and any other Country Work Whoever has a Mind for the ſaid Negro may repair to Andrew Bradford in Philadelphia.

A Young Negro Woman to be ſold by Samuel Kirk in the Second Street, Philadelphia,

Ditto Oct 6 1791

TO be Sold, a very likely Negro Woman fit for all Manner of Houſe Work, as Waſhing, Starching, Ironing, &c, Enquire of Andrew Bradford,

Ditto. Dec. 24. 1723

A Female Negro Child (of an extraordinary good Breed) to be given away, Inquire of Edes and Gill.

Boston Gazette. Feb 25. 1765.

To be Sold, for want of Employ,

A Likely Negro Fellow, about 25 Years of Age, he is an extraordinary good Cook. and underſtands ſetting or tending a Table very well, likewiſe all Kind of Houſe Work, ſuch as waſhing, ſcouring, ſcrubbing, &c, Alſo a Negro Wench his Wife, about 17 Years old, born in this City, and underſtands all Sorts of Houſe Work. For farther Particulars inquire of the Printer.

New York Gazette Mar 21. 1765

TO BE SOLD.

A hearty ſtrong, young

NEGRO WENCH,

Fit for country work. For particulars enquire of the printer.

Penn^a Journal, April. 4 1765

RUN away from *Jacob Browne*, Eſq; the Twenty ninth ult. a Negro Boy, about Eighteen Years old, was born in *Hopkington*, and brought up by the Rev. Mr. *Barret*, his Name is *Iſhmael*, he has been a Soldier at the Lake, is thick ſett, has thick Lips, and goes limping by Reaſon of the great Toe of his right Foot being froze and not quite well. He had on when he went away, a ſtriped Jacket, leather Breeches, chequered woolen Shirt, blue under Jacket, light coloured Stockings, braſs Buckles in his Shoes, and an old mill'd Cap. He is an artful Fellow, and is ſuppoſed will endeavour to paſs for a Soldier, as he carried off with him a Firelock and Blanket,—Whoever ſhall take up the ſaid Negro and bring him to his Maſter, or confine him in any of his Majeſty's Goals ſo that his Maſter may have him again, ſhall have FOUR DOLLARS Reward, and all Charges paid.

Marblehead, April 2. 1765. JACOB FOWLE.

Boston Gazette April 8. 1765.

FRANCIS LEWIS,

Has for SALE,

A Choice Parcel of Muſcovado and Powder Sugars, in Hogſheads, Tierces, and Barrels; Ravens Duck, and a Negro Woman and Negro Boy. — The Coach-Houſe and Stables, with or without the Garden Spot, formerly the Property of Joſeph Murray, Eſq; in the Broad Way, to be let ſeperately or together. — Inquire of ſaid Francis Lewis. NY. Gaz. Apr. 25 1765

Just Imported in the ſhip GRANBY, JOSEPH BLEWER Maſter,

Seventy *Gold-Coaſt* SLAVES

of various ages, and both ſexes,

To be ſold on board ſaid ſhip at Mr. Plumſted's wharf, by

WILLING and *MORRIS*,

And a part of them are intended to be ſent in a few days to Dock Creek, there to be ſold, by Mr. Thomas Mudock for caſh or country produce, Penn^a Jour. Aug 15 1765.

Know all Men by these presents That
I Elizabeth Treat of Boston in the County of Suffolk
Widow in Consideration of the sum of Twenty five
Pounds 13/4, to me in hand paid before the Ensealing
hereof by Samuel Breck of Boston aforesaid.
Merchant, the Receipt whereof I do hereby
acknowledge Have Granted Bargained & Sold
and by these presents Do fully & absolutely Grant
Bargain & Sell unto the said Samuel Breck, my
Negro Man named Harry Aged about fourty
years, with his Apparel, To have and to hold
the said Negro Man Harry with his apparel unto
the said Samuel Breck his Excon Admrs & Assigns
To his & their only proper Use Benefit & Behoof
forever; And I the said Elizabeth Treat for myself
my heirs Excon & Admors do covenant that at the
time of Ensealing & until the Delivery hereof, I
am the true & lawful Owner of the said Negro Man
& that he is free from all former Sales Charges &
Incumbrances whatsoever, And that I will Warrant
& Defend the said Negro Man unto the said Samuel
Breck his heirs & Assigns forever, against the lawful
Claims & Demands of all Persons whomsoever
Witness my Hand & Seal this Tenth Day of October
Anno Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy,
In the Tenth Year of His Majesty's Reign --

Signed Sealed & Delivered Elizabeth Treat
in presence of Us -
Witts Thomas Melvill Jr
Mary White,

TOBE SOLD,
A Negro Man that understands Cooking and House-work; also a young Negro Girl; both have had the Small-Pox.
Enquire of the Printers.
Mass.Gaz. Aug 29 1769.

A Letter of Dismission from the Church of Dorchester Mass. in the hand writing of Rev.d Rich.d Mather.

To the Reverend & dearly beloved in the Lord, the Elders & brethren of the church at Roxbury, Mery and peace in Christ Jesus.

Reverend & beloved brethren, The good providence of the Lord hating so disposed of Hannah the daughter of Tho: Andrewes of this towne is joyned in marriage wth an inhabitant amongst you, w^hose name as we conceive is W. Hopkins, & the said Hannah desired dismission from this church, y^t so she might be ye will of god to shew her (wee sahow) she may be joyned as a member of the church wth you, amongst w^hom she now dwells, These are therefore to certifye you y^t the elders & most of the brethren wth vs have consented to her desire herein, as conceiving it most orderly that persons should joyne in ordinances as members to the church where God disposeth of their habitation & abode, rather then to draw in out their & retayne their membership elsewhere, and accounting if though the said Hannah have not yet been heard to fulle communion, yet inasmuch as she was baptized in vs as a member, (her mother being a holder forth wth vs) and was never cut off from the membership by excommunication, nor (for aught yet wee have) grant or knowne ever guilty of any, that deserved so to be, y^t therefore her membership doth still continue; for we get not weight of reason to judge y^t sins as were committed in infancy should crase to be members morally because now they are growne to yeares & have wrill, Upon such considerations as these & other & the most of the brethren wth vs have consented as we have said. we do therefore remand her to your loving acceptance in the Lord, beseeching y^t you giving such satisfaction as is meet you would receive her into holy fellowship wth your selves, y^t so she may be one of yor church. so wishing from ye heart y^t the many others in these exigent may have cause of great grieve to my of god, y^t they may be known to be afraid with ye word have blessed.

your hart loving & true
dorchester this 29th
of the 2d mon. 1660

your loving brethren in the Lord
Richard Mather
George Minott
Sydnay Wittimore

Autograph of Increase Mather.

Sir
For her good mr Richard
Mather, Minister of ye Gospell
at Dorchester in
Newengland.

Red it filius, — quo non indignior alter
Reverendus Pater
Cotton non Johan

In the posession of Wm Thaddeus Harris Esq.r

Enlarge

A LETTER OF DISMISSION FROM THE CHURCH OF DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, IN THE HANDWRITING OF REV. RICHARD MATHER.

TO the Reverend & o^{r} dearly beloved in the Lord, the Elders & Brethren of the Church at Roxebury, Mercy and Peace in Cht. Jesus.

Reverend & beloved brethren, The good Providence of the Lord having so disposed that Hannah the daughter of Tho: Andrewes of this toune is joyned in marriage with an inhabitant amongst you, whose name as we conceive is W: Hopkins, & the said Hannah having desired dismission frō this church, y^{t} so (if it be ye will of God to shew her this favour) she may be joyned as a member of the church wth you, amongst whō she now dwells, These are therefore to certifye you y^{t} o^{r}selves & the most of the brethren wth us have consented to her desyre herein, as conceiving it most orderly that psons should joyne y^{m}selves as members to the church where God disposeth of their usuall habitacōn & abode, rather than to dwell in one place & retayne their membershipp elswhere, and accounting y^{t} though the said Hannah have not yet bene rēcd to full coīmunion, yet inasmuch as she was borne & baptised wth us as a member, (her mother being a beloved sister wth us) and was never cutt off frō her membership by excoīmunicatiōn, nor (for ought y^{t} ever we have seene or knowne or heard of her) hath deserved so to be, y^{t} therefore her membershipp doth still continue; (for we see not weight of reason to judge y^{t} such as were members in Infancy should cease to be members meerely because now they are growne to yeares & becōe adult.) Upon such consideracōns as these o^{r}selves & the most of the brethren wth us have consented as we have said.

We do therefore coīmend her to yor loving acceptance in the Lord, requesting y^{t} she giving such satisfaccōn as is meet you would receive her into holy coveīt wth yo^{r}selves, y^{t} so she may be one of yor church. So wishing frō o^{r} hearts y^{t} she & many others in these churches may have such grace given to y^{m} of God, y^{t} they may be knowne to be a seed wch ye Lord hath blessed, we take leave & rest

Yo^{r} loving brethren in the Lord,

RICHARD MATHER,
GEORGE MINOTT,
HENRY WITHINGTON.

Dorchester, this 24th of the 2d mon. 1660.

A copy from the original memorandum by Cotton Mather in the Historical Society Mass.
Respecting the possessed Woman.

While I was preaching at a private fast kept for a possessed young Woman, — on mark 9. 28, 29. — ye Devil in ye Damsel flew upon me, & tore ye Leaf as it is now torn, over against ye Pept.
Nov. 29. 1692

Sr

Boston.
20. d 11 m 1690.

To

the Right Worshipful
Thomas Hinkly Esqr
Governour of
Plymouth

You find here Enclosed some Letters from my Father to yourself. By his Letters to me, I perceive, that about ye middle of last November, God had so Blessed his Applications, as that when all other means of Restoration to our Ancient Liberties failed us, he had obtained of ye King an Order to ye Judges Holt, and Pollexfen, and ye Attorney Sollicitour General, to draw up a New Charter for us, wch was done, But just as this Vessel came away, and waited for ye Proviⁿ-Seal. Governr Sclater of N York, had Plymouth put into his Commission, But prudently thro my Fathers Industry & Discretion, he procured ye Dropping of it. Cr Friends at Whitehal assured him, that if he had petitioned for a Charter to be extended upon Plymouth by itself, there had none been obtained for you, nor for us neither. Wherefore he procured Plymouth to be inserted into ye Grant. But when Mr Wisewall understood it, he came & furiously told my Father, your Colony would all curse him for it. at wch ye Sollicitor General being extremely moved, presently dash't it out. So that you are now again, like to be annexed unto ye Government of N. York. and if you find your-selves thereby plunged into manifold miseries, you have none to thank for it, but one of your own. The only hope, if there be any, left for you, is for your immediately to petition ye King & Queen, that you may yet become a Province United unto a Colony wch you may find it more Advantageous for you to be Colony unto. But, it is nice for me to be your Adviser, I pray the Wonderful Counsellour to direct you. 'Tis to his Conduct that you are now Committed, by

Sr,

Your most humble Servt
C Mather.

Governr Hinkley.

communication of all Salvation to me?
Q. 3. Am I willing to be Employed Upto the utmost in bearing a Testimony to the Truths and ways of God & Christ?
Q. 4. Am I resolved to maintain a Combat with all the Lusts of my Heart as long as ever they shall in any measure Lodge within me?

He that doth every Evening Prayer shall maintain such Beneficial Endeavours with God as no Tongue can express the Comfort of. Vrgit.

Two Autographs of Cotton Mather.

Enlarge

COPY OF THE (EXTRAORDINARY) ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM, BY COTTON MATHER, RESPECTING THE POSSESSED WOMAN.

Whilst I was preaching at a private Fast (kept for
a possessed young woman,)—on Mark
9. 28. 29,—ye Devel in ye damsel
flew upon mee & tore the leaf, as
it is now torn over against ye Text:
Nov. 29. 1692.

LETTER FROM COTTON MATHER TO GOVERNOR HINKLEY.

Boston, 26, 11^m, 1690.

S^r,

You find here enclosed some letters from my Father to yourself. By his letters to mee I perceive, that about ye middle of last November, God had so blessed his Applications, as that when all other means of Restoration to our Ancient Liberties failed us, hee had obtained of ye King an order to ye Judges *Holt* & *Pollexfen*, & ye Atturney Solliciter General, to draw up a New Charter for us, wch was done, but just as this vessel came away, & waited for ye Provi^l seal. Governor *Sclaler* of N. York, had *Plymouth* putt into his commission, but partly thro my fathers Industry & Discretion, hee procured ye dropping of it. The Friends at Whitehall assured him, that if he had petitioned for a charter to be bestowed upon *Plymouth* by itself, there had none been obtained for you, nor for us neither; Wherefore hee procured Plymouth to bee inserted into ye Grant. But when Mr. Wiswal understood it, hee came & told my Father your *Colony would all curse him for it;* at which ye Sollicitor General being extremely moved, presently dash't it out, so that you are now again, like to bee annexed unto ye government of N. *York;* and if you find yourselves thereby plunged into manifold miseries you have none to thank for it, but one of your own. The only hope, if there be any left for you, is, for you immediately to petition ye King & Queen, that you may yett become a province united unto a Colony wch you may find it more Advantageous for you to belong unto. But, it is not for mee to bee your Adviser. I pray the Wonderful Counsellour to direct you. 'Tis to his conduct that you are now comitted, by

S^r,

Your most humble serv^t,
C. MATHER.

Govern^r. HINCKLEY.

THE AUTOGRAPHS OF C. MATHER.

Communication of all salvation to mee?

Q. 3. Am I willing to be Employed unto the utmost in bearing a Testimony to Truths & wayes of God and Christ?

Q. 4. Am I resolved to maintain a Combatt with all the lusts of my heart as Long as Ever they shall in eny measure lodge within me?

Hee that doth every evening answer these questions will maintain Such Beneficial Converse with God as no Tongue can express the comforts of; Try it:—

THE FIRST PRESS IN AMERICA, AND THE INDIAN BIBLE.

THE first press in what is now the United States, was at Cambridge, Massachusetts, where, so late as 1650, the President of the College had the direction of the concerns of the printing-house, and made contracts for printing; he was responsible for the productions of the press, which was, for a time, as celebrated as the presses of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, in England. The production of so great a work as a translation of the Bible in the Indian language, at this early date, must be esteemed an extraordinary undertaking, especially when the good style of its execution is considered, together with the difficulties it encountered. It was printed on a fine paper of pot size, and in quarto; fifteen hundred copies were taken, and afterwards a second edition of two thousand appeared, "at the charge and with the consent of the Corporation in England for the Propagation of the Gospel amongst the Indians in New England." The Old Testament was three years in press, and was followed by an edition of Baxter's Call to the Unconverted, an edition of the Psalter, and two editions of Eliot's* Catechism, all in the Indian language.

The Rev. Mr. Cotton, a proficient in the Indian language, assisted Mr. Eliot in revising and correcting the second edition; both editions had title-pages in English and Indian, and the cost of the second is found to have been £900 sterling.

It is an interesting circumstance connected with the printing of this Bible, that the work was done by an Indian lad named *James;* he was born at an Indian town called Hassanamesitt, now Grafton, Worcester county, Massachusetts. His father was a deacon of the church of Indian Christians established in that place; when a child the boy was taught, at the Indian charity school at Cambridge, to read and write the English language; in 1659 he was apprenticed to Samuel Green, printer at that place, who gave him the surname of *Printer*. Green instructed him in the art of printing, and, whilst his apprentice, employed him as a pressman, &c., in printing the Indian Bible under consideration.

A war taking place between the lad's countrymen and the whites, James, fired with a spark of the love of country, left his master secretly, and joined his brethren in arms; the Indians in several skirmishes were repulsed with loss, and became disheartened; the government of Massachusetts issued a proclamation "That whatever Indians should within fourteen days next ensuing, come into the English, might hope for *mercy*." Among those who came was *James* the *Printer*, who, it is supposed, remained in and near Boston till 1680, doubtless working at his trade, either with his former master, at Cambridge, or with Foster, who had lately set up a press, the first established in Boston. In 1680 he was engaged with Green, at Cambridge, in printing the second edition of the Bible. The Rev. John Eliot, in a letter to the Hon. Robert Boyle, at London, dated March, 1682–3, observes respecting this second edition, "I desire to see it done before I die, and I am so deep in years that I cannot expect to live long; besides, we have but one man, viz., the Indian printer, that is able to compose the sheets, and correct the press with understanding." Again, in 1684, he says, "Our workmen have been all sick, and we have but few hands, (at printing,) one Englishman and a boy, and one *Indian;* and many interruptions and diversions do befall us, and we could do but little this very hard winter."

Some of James's descendants were living in Grafton in the early part of the present century; they bore the surname of *Printer*.

For a more full account of this Bible, as well as for much highly interesting matter connected with the art of book and newspaper making in the early times of our country, see "The History of Printing in America, by Isaiah Thomas." Two volumes, octavo. Worcester, 1810.

* Mr. Eliot was called "The Apostle of the Indians," and he truly was so. Cotton Mather mentions in his Magnalia that Mr. Eliot wrote the Bible in Indian with one pen.

Received from the honorable Thomas and Richard Penn Esqrs true and absolute Proprietaries of Pennsylvania by the hands of the honorable Sr William Johnson Baronet the sum of two thousand Dollars being the full consideration of the Lands lately sold to them by the Indians of the six Nations at the late Treaty of Fort Stanwix We say received this Twenty Eighth day of July — Anno Domini 1769 — for ourselves and the other Indians of the six Nations and their confederates and dependant Tribes for whom we act and by whom we are appointed and empowered —

Received from the Proprietaries for Patents for 2000 Dollars.

Witness present
Henry Bray Tiotiqa
Nor.d MacLeod
Pat Daly
Onoghwanoron
Onughshiony
Tor the Cayuga Nation by the desire of the whole
Amaguadecka
Serrihouna
Abraham for the Mohawks
Johannes Tekarihogea
Jonathan Thayeagwanega
Joseph Thayeadanega
James Sussarowane
Lodowicke Aughsanta
Joseph Tagahwawon
Tayani

Enlarge

Pl. L.

Philadelphia 13th October 1778

Honorable Sir

Since my last of the 7th Instant I have not been honored with any of your favors

Under the present Cover will be found an Act of Congress of Yesterdays date recommending the encouragement of true Religion and good Morals and the suppression of the atrocial Entertainments Horse racing, Gaming and such other Diversions as are productive of Idleness Dissipation and a general depravity of Principles and Manners

I have the honor to be
With very great Respect &
Esteem Sir
Your Honor's
Most obedient humble
Servant
Henry Laurens,
President
of Congress

Autographs of Genl Officers in 1780.

Your most Obedient Servants

Nath Greene M.G
H Wilkinson M.G
Jas Clinton M.G
Lafayette M.G
Alexr McDougall
M General

Wm Maxwell B.G
H Knox B.G
Geo Weedon B.G
Edw Hand B.G
Wm Irvine B. Genl
Anth Wayne B.G

Enlarge

*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES, PART 07 ***

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Pl. XLIV

Written by T. Moore and addressed to a lady of Philadelphia.

Alone by the Schuylkill a wanderer rov'd,
And bright were its flowery banks to his eye;
But far very far were the friends that he lov'd,
And he gazd on its flowery banks with a sigh –
Oh Nature tho blessed and bright are thy ways
O'er the brow of Creation enchantingly thrown,
How faint are they all to the lustre that plays
In a smile from the heart that is dearly our own.

Nor long did the soul of the stranger remain,
Unblest by the smile he had languished to meet –
Ah scarce did he hope it would bless him again,
Till the threshold of Home had been kist by his feet
But the lays of his boyhood had stole to their ear,
And they lov'd, what they knew of so humble a name,
And they told him with flattery welcome and dear,
That they found in his heart something sweeter than fame –

Nor did Woman — oh Woman! whose form and whose soul
Are the spell and the light of each path we pursue;
Whether sunn'd in the tropics or chill'd at the Pole,
If Woman be there, there is happiness too! —

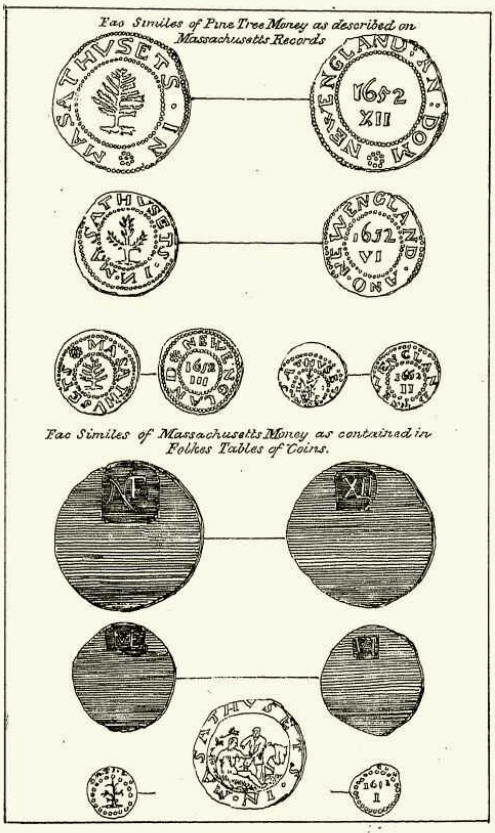
Nor did she her enamouring magic deny
(That magic his heart had relinquish'd so long)
Like eyes he had lov'd was her eloquent eye
Like them did it soften and weep at his song –

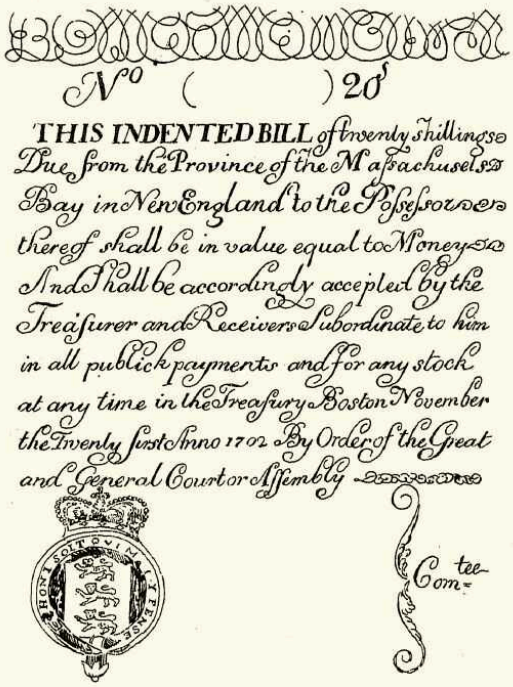
Oh! blest be the tear, and in memory oft
May its sparkle be shed o'er his wandering dream –
Oh! blest be the eye, and may passion as soft
As free from a pang ever mellow its beam
The Stranger is gone – but he will not forget,
When, at home, he shall talk of the toil he has known,
To tell, with a sigh what endearments he met,
As he strayd by the wave of the Schuylkill alone!

T. M.

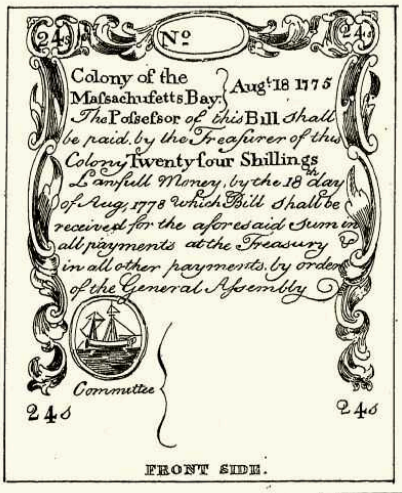
I thought Francis had paid the Boot maker for me but if Maxwell will put it in my bill to him. I shall discharge it from Halifax —

back





A Fac Simile of a Massachusetts Treasury Note. Such currency, as issued in 1690, had a Circle which enclosed L.S. on the left opposite the place for the Committees names. This circle was substituted on the Bill here presented by a likeness of the Royal Seal to render the counterfeiting of it more difficult.



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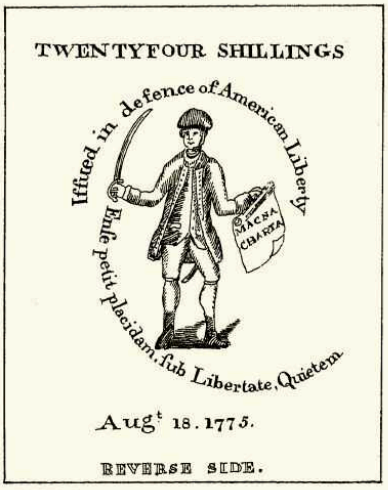

REVERSE SIDE.

N. E. Numb. 1.

The Boston News-Letter.

Head of the First **Published by Authority.** American Newspaper

From **Monday** April 17. to **Monday** April 24. 1704

Boston : Printed by *B. Green* Sold by *Nicholas Boone*, at his Shop near the Old Meeting-House,

back

A Letter of Dismission from the Church of Dorchester Mass. in the hand writing of Rev.d Rich.d Mather.

To the Reverend & dearly beloved in the Lord, the Elders & brethren of the church at Roxbury, Mery and peace in Christ Jesus.

Reverend & beloved brethren, The good providence of the Lord hating so disposed of Hannah the daughter of Tho: Andrewes of this towne is joyned in marriage wth an inhabitant amongst you, w^hose name as we conceive is W. Hopkins, & the said Hannah desired dismission from this church, y^t so she might be ye will of god to shew her (wee sahow) she may be joyned as a member of the church wth you, amongst w^hom she now dwells, These are therefore to certifye you y^t the elders & most of the brethren wth vs have consented to her desire herein, as conceiving it most orderly that persons should joyne in ordinances as members to the church where God disposeth of their habitation & abode, rather then to draw in out their & retayne their membership elsewhere, and accounting if though the said Hannah have not yet been heard to fulle communion, yet inasmuch as she was baptized in vs as a member, (her mother being a holder forth wth vs) and was never cut off from the membership by excommunication, nor (for aught yet wee have) grant or knowne ever guilty of any, that deserved so to be, y^t therefore her membership doth still continue; for we get not weight of reason to judge y^t sins as were committed in infancy should crase to be members morally because now they are growne to yeares & have wrill, Upon such considerations as these & other & the most of the brethren wth vs have consented as we have said. we do therefore remand her to your loving acceptance in the Lord, beseeching y^t you giving such satisfaction as is meet you would receive her into holy fellowship wth your selves, y^t so she may be one of yor church. so wishing from ye heart y^t the many others in these exigent may have cause of great grieve to my of god, y^t they may be known to be afraid with ye word have blessed.

your hart loving & true
dorchester this 29th
of the 2d mon. 1660

your loving brethren in the Lord
Richard Mather
George Minott
Sydnay Wittimore

Autograph of Increase Mather.

Sir
For her good mr Richard
Mather, Minister of ye Gospell
at Dorchester in
Newengland.

Red it filius, — quo non indignior alter
Reverendus Pater
Cotton non Johan

In the posession of Wm Thaddeus Harris Esq.r

back

A Copy from the original memorandum by Cotton Mather in the Historical Society Mass.
Respecting the possessed Woman.

While I was preaching at a private Fast kept for
a possessed young Woman, — on mark
9. 28, 29. — ye Devil in ye Samsel,
flew upon me, & tore ye Leaf as
it is now torn, sore against yt Pept.
Nov. 29. 1692

Sr

Boston.
20. d 11 m 1690.

You find here enclosed some Letters from my Father to yourself. By his Letters to me, I perceive, that about ye middle of last November, God had so blessed his Applications, as that when all other means of Restoration to our Ancient Liberties failed us, he had obtained of ye King an Order to ye Judges Holt, and Pollexfen, and ye Attorney Solicitor General, to draw up a New Charter for us, wch was done. But just as this Vessel came away, and waited for ye Proui-Seal. Governr Sclater of N York, had Plymouth put into his Commission, but prudently thro my Fathers Industry & Discretion, he procured ye Dropping of it. Cn Friends at Whitehal assured him, that if he had petitioned for a Charter to be extended upon Plymouth by itself, there had none been obtained for you, nor for us neither. Wherefore he procured Plymouth to be inserted into ye Grant. But when Mr Wiseman understood it, he came & furiously told my Father, your Colony would all curse him for it. at wch ye Solliciter General being extremely moved, presently dash't it out. So that you are now again, like to be annexed unto ye Government of N. York. and if you find your-selves thereby plunged into manifold miseries, you have none to thank for it, but one of your own. The only hope, if there be any, left for you, is, for your immediately to petition ye King & Queen, that you may yet become a province united unto a Colony wch you may find it more Advantageous for you to be Colony unto. But, it is nice for me to be your Adviser, I pray the Wonderful Counsellour to direct you. 'Tis to his Conduct that you are now Committed, by

Sr,

Your most humble Servt

C Mather.

To
the Right Worshipful
Thomas Hinkly Esqr
Governour of
Plymouth

Governr Hinkley.

communication of all Salvation to me?
Q. 3. Am I willing to be Employed Upto the utmost in bearing a Testimony to the Truth and ways of God & Christ?
Q. 4. Am I resolved to maintain a Combat with all the Lusts of my Heart as long as ever they shall in any measure lodge within me?

He that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him. 1 Joh. 4. 16.
will maintain such Beneficial & endeared Intercourse with God as no Tongue can express the Comfort of. Vrgit.

Two Autographs of Cotton Mather.

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Received from the honorable Thomas and Richard Penn Esqrs true and absolute Proprietaries of Pennsylvania by the hands of the honorable Sr William Johnson Baronet the sum of two thousand Dollars being the full consideration of the Lands lately sold to them by the Indians of the six Nations at the late Treaty of Fort Stanwix We say received this Twenty Eighth day of July — Anno Domini 1769 — for ourselves and the other Indians of the six Nations and their confederates and dependant Tribes for whom we act and by whom we are appointed and empowered —

Received from the Proprietaries for Patents for 2000 Dollars.

Witness present
Henry Bray Tiotiqa
Nor.d MacLeod
Pat Daly
Onoghwanoron
Onughshiony
Tor the Cayuga Nation by the desire of the whole
Amaguadecka
Serrihouna
Abraham for the Mohawks
Johannes Tekarihogea
Jonathan Thayeagwanega
Joseph Thayeadanega
James Sussarowane
Lodowicke Aughsanta
Joseph Tagahwawon
Tayani

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Philadelphia 13th October 1778

Honorable Sir

Since my last of the 7th Instant I have not been honored with any of your favors

Under the present Cover will be found an Act of Congress of Yesterdays date recommending the encouragement of true Religion and good Morals and the suppression of the atrocial Entertainments Horse racing, Gaming and such other Diversions as are productive of Idleness Dissipation and a general depravity of Principles and Manners

I have the honor to be
With very great Respect &
Esteem Sir
Your Honor's
Most obedient humble
Servant
Henry Laurens,
President
of Congress

Autographs of Gen! Officers in 1780.

Your most Obedient Servants

Nath Greene M'G
H Weeng M'G
Jas Clair M'G
Lafayette M.G.
Alexr McDougall
M General

Wm Maxwell B G
H Knox B'G Genl Artillery
Edw Hand B.G
Wm Irvine B. Genl
Anth Wayne B G

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