

*Year-Book of the New York Society of Sons of the Revolution.* New York: Exchange Printing Company. 8vo. pp. 282.

This handsome specimen of the printer's and binder's skill surpasses the previous publications of this Society, the pioneer in arousing a worthy respect for the men who fought in the War of the Revolution.

Instituted in 1876, re-awakened and re-organized in 1888, since the later date by its example it has been the means of creating an interest throughout the Union and has extended the right hand of fellowship to societies organized in the states of Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Iowa, New Jersey, Georgia and Massachusetts, uniting with them and forming a National Society.

Lists of the officers of the different state societies are found in the pages of the book, the Constitution of the General Society and By-Laws of the New York Society.

The importance of the work to genealogists lies in an alphabetical list of the members' names, with their relationship to their Revolutionary ancestors and the active service of the ancestor through whom their claim for membership rests. As such claims are from authorized documentary evidence, the accuracy of the record can be readily appreciated by those who have been furnished traditional evidence of by-gone days.

The prevalence of prominent names of the Revolutionary period is marked on a perusal of the record of its nine hundred and two members, a majority of whom have supplementary claims of descent from active participants in the struggle for freedom; that the energetic spirit which pervaded the soldiers and statesmen of those days has not deteriorated is evidenced by the fact that the New York Society includes in its membership men of high social standing and familiar to all the present generation by their national reputation in their different callings.

Incorporated in the work is the stirring address delivered by Prof. Henry P. Johnson on May 11, 1891, on "Ticonderoga, or the Defeat of the Old World in the New," and a poem on "The Name of Washington," by Geo. Parsons Lathrop.

Several illustrations specially engraved for this work are inserted, one of which is a portrait of Washington copied from Conder's picture.

*By Walter K. Watkins, Esq., of Chelsea, Mass.*

*Year-Book of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for 1891; to which is prefixed a History of the Organization of the Society, set forth in Official Reports.* Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company. 1892. Pp. 214. Price \$1.00.

On the organization, March 7, 1889, of the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution, by a few of the members of the New York Society of Sons of the Revolution, a circular was issued by the New Jersey Society for the formation of state societies.

Connecticut promptly responded in April, 1889, organizing a state society. Unlike the New Jersey and other of the state societies of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Connecticut Society's requirements for membership are more strict and similar to those of the Sons of the Revolution, with whom from a similarity of names it has often been confounded. That the parent name of Sons of the Revolution be taken is the desire of many members, and it can be readily appreciated by all as a simple solution to rectify an unfortunate choice of a name, and where a common interest demands union in words and deeds.

The history of the growth of the society shows the untiring efforts of its officers and members, which have culminated in producing a membership of over five hundred.

Added to a list of members is a valuable necrology of those who, having revered the deeds of their ancestors, have joined the great army as fellow members with them.

The typographical qualities of the book are enhanced by photo-mechanical reproductions of portraits of Jonathan Trumbull and Israel Putnam.

The work as a whole reflects great credit on the Committee of Publication, Messrs Joseph W. Woodward, Lucius F. Robinson, Jonathan F. Morris, Lucius P. Deming and Rufus W. Griswold.

*By Walter K. Watkins, Esq., of Chelsea, Mass.*

*Town Records of Manchester, from 1718 to 1769, as contained in the "Commoners' Records," and the "Fourth Book of Town Records," 1736 to 1786. Volume II.* Salem, Mass.: The Salem Press Publishing and Printing Co., 1891. 8vo. pp. 212.

The publication by the town of Manchester, Mass., of a printed volume containing all the general records of the town which have been preserved to us from the beginning down to the year 1736, comprised in the Second and Third Books of the Town Records, was noticed in the REGISTER for January, 1890 (xliv. 125), and the hope was expressed that the good work would not be allowed to stop there, but that steps should be taken to carry it on to completion.

At the annual town meeting held in March, 1890, the town voted to continue the printing of its ancient records, and the volume before us is the result. It contains the Fourth Book of the Records of the Town, from 1736 to 1786, with the exception of certain tax lists and constables' receipts. There are added also extracts from the volume entitled "Commoners' Records," beginning in 1718 and ending in 1769. These extracts were printed in accordance with another vote of the town passed at the same meeting. The volume is provided with an index of persons arranged by Christian and surnames, and an index of places and subjects.

To the able and efficient town clerk, Alfred S. Jewett, and the committee, Daniel Leach, D. L. Bingham and William H. Tappan, who have so cordially co-operated with him, the town is indebted for the success of this effort to preserve from destruction the fast-decaying records of one of the oldest towns in Massachusetts. It must be remembered that these ancient records concern not only those who now live within the narrow limits of the town, but the descendants, scattered all over the Union, of its early settlers, and indeed all antiquaries and historical scholars everywhere throughout the land, for they are part of the history of the Commonwealth, and that history cannot be properly written without a thorough study of the history of the towns that comprise it. The printing of such volumes as these is now for the first time making these town records accessible to the historian.

The hope is again expressed that long before the approaching celebration of the 250th anniversary of the town, all its records from the earliest times down to at least the beginning of the present century, if not later, may be put beyond the reach of destruction by the art of the printer. The printed page is a monument more lasting than brass, and it is the only monument which is imperishable.

*By John T. Hassam, A.M., of Boston.*

*Young Folks' History of the United States.* By THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON. Boston: Lee & Shepard, Publishers. New York: Charles T. Dillingham. 1891. 8vo. pp. vi.+400+33. Price \$1.50.

This very readable little history will be instructive to adults as well as to children. Col. Higginson treats his subject carefully, fairly, and in a way which ought to interest the young. The period of the civil war, perhaps the most difficult of any to the historian, especially to the writer of a "popular" work, is admirably portrayed. Col. Higginson is well qualified for his task, and has shown discretion not only in what he has so well arranged and condensed, but in what he has omitted altogether. The illustrations are numerous and pleasing, and the chronological table, and the questions, which latter fill thirty-three pages, will be of great assistance. The list of "Books for Consultation" contained in the appendix, and the statistics given, show excellent judgment in selection. The volume contains a map of what is now the United States, with data explaining the accessions of territory at different times. We have examined several "popular" state histories in the past few years which fail to serve the purpose for which they were intended, because the works are superficial and lacking in the very respects and characteristics which commend the volume before us. A "popular" history which does not contain the constitution of the state or nation which is its subject, and which devotes a few lines only to one important epoch, and many unnecessary pages to another, is a poor thing. We take pleasure in recommending Col. Higginson's book, and consider it a remarkably good *Young Folks' History of the United States*.

*By George Kuhn Clarke, LL.B. of Needham, Mass.*

*The Original Mother Goose's Melody, as issued by John Newbery, London, circa 1760; Isaiah Thomas of Worcester, circa 1785, and Monroe & Francis, circa 1825. Reproduced in fac-simile from the first Worcester edition. With Introductory Notes. By WILLIAM H. WHITMORE. To which are added The Fairy Tales of Mother Goose, first collected by Perrault in 1696, reprinted from the original translation into English by R. Samber in 1729. Damrell & Upham, The Old Corner Book Store, Boston. Griffith, Farran & Co., Limited, Newbery House, London, 1892. Price \$1.50.*

The first edition of Mr. Whitmore's monograph on Mother Goose was published in October, 1890, and was noticed by us in January, 1891. In that work Mr. Whitmore successfully showed the true nature of the fables about the authorship of Mother Goose's Melodies, which for a quarter of a century have been so industriously circulated; and he showed the true origin of the name and the melodies.

The present edition is much enlarged and improved. The author's positions have been fortified by new proofs. Among the newspapers of the second half of the last century he finds evidence that the booksellers and printers of Boston gave the children of New England a chance to become familiar with some of the characteristic melodies collected by Newbery. I have little doubt that copies of the whole book, *Mother Goose's Melody*, were imported and sold in Boston soon after Newbery issued it in London. The most important addition to this edition is a fac-simile reprint of a New York edition of 1795, of Mr. Charles Perrault's *Tales*, which Mr. Whitmore showed in his last edition gave popularity to the name, *Mother Goose*. A memoir and portrait of Perrault are given. Mr. Whitmore's research leaves little to be desired on the questions he discusses.

*Montcalm and Wolfe.* By FRANCIS PARKMAN. Fourteenth edition (being part seventh of his *France and England in North America*). Boston: published by Little, Brown & Company. University Press, John Wilson & Son. 1890. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xvi.+514 and x.+502.

This is the fourteenth edition of a well-known standard work, which tells the story of the events that led to the capture of Quebec, and of its important and far-reaching results. As a historian we consider Mr. Parkman as able, accurate and happy in his style as any of the writers who by laborious research have presented to the world trustworthy accounts of the development of the American continent. What Bancroft has done to illumine the history of the United States, and Prescott to throw light upon the Spanish conquests in the new world, Parkman has to a large degree accomplished in his chosen domain, the struggle of France and Great Britain for supremacy in America. The second volume contains a likeness of Wolfe at the age of sixteen years, and is the only picture of him known to exist, as he never after sat for his portrait.

*By George Kuhn Clarke, LL.B. of Needham, Mass.*

*Fragments of Revolutionary History. Being hitherto unpublished writings of the Men of the American Revolution, collected and edited under authority of the District of Columbia Society, Sons of the Revolution.* By GAILLARD HUNT, Registrar and Historian. Brooklyn, N. Y.: The Historical Printing Club. 1892. 8vo. pp. 200. Price in paper \$2.00, in half leather \$2.50.

The interest excited by the formation of Societies of Sons of the Revolution have led to the gathering and publication of much that is pertinent to that period of the nation's history.

In this collection of letters, which is mainly in the possession of some of the members of the District of Columbia Society of Sons of the Revolution, the historian and student will find new material and corroboration of previous publications on the Revolutionary War.

Especially can this be said regarding that part of the struggle when the operations were in the southern states. The correspondence of Morgan, Mercer and Lafayette are of special value. The interest is also quickened by the addition of Washington Letters, the appearance in print of which is always hailed with ardor by the student of American history, and which awaken envious dreams in the autograph collector.

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