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## **AMERICAN HISTORICAL**

### **AND**

## LITERARY CURIOSITIES

By John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

## 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,

ASSISTED BY AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUARIANS.

SIXTH EDITION; WITH IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS.

NEW YORK: G. P. PUTNAM. 1861.

# 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 Six** 

- Plates 36 and 37.—Fac-similes of General Washington's handwriting from the age of twelve to within four days of his death. Among the signatures is one to a Lottery Tieket. The latter in the possession of G. P. Putnam.

  In the possession of Robert Gilmor, Esq.
- Plate 33.—Picture of Governor Carver's Chair brought over in the May-Flower, from a drawing by Weir, with the fac-similes of the Signatures of the Governors of Massachusetts under the first Charter, and the Governors of Plymouth Colony.

  Furnished by Isaac P. Davis, Esq., of Boston.
- Plate 39.—The original advertisement of the Committee for Tarring and Feathering, addressed to the Delaware Pilots respecting the arrival of the Tea ship Polly, &c. In the possession of J. Jay Smith.
- Plate 40.—Cream Pot presented to his executor, Henry Hill, Esq., by Dr. Franklin; motto, "Keep bright the chain."

  In the possession of Mrs. Hannah B. Mott, Burlington, N. J.
  - Dr. Franklin's celebrated Epitaph in fac-simile.
- Plate 41.—History of the Song of "Hail Columbia," in the handwriting of the author, Judge Hopkinson.

  In the possession of Mrs. Hopkinson.
- Plate 42.—Commission of Benedict Arnold as Major-General, dated May 2d, 1777, signed by John Hancock, President of Congress.

  In the possession of James Rogers, Esq., of New Castle, Del.
- Plate 43.—Profile of Thomas Moore, the poet.

  Letter from Moore to Joseph Denny, dated in New York.

<u>Plate 36.</u> <u>Plate 37.</u> <u>Plate 38.</u> <u>Plate 39.</u> <u>Plate 40.</u> <u>Plate 41.</u> <u>Plate 41.</u>

Execution on the said Judgment in 1744 at the age of 12.

You are hereby commanded to allack the Estate of G T Grasmuch thereof as will be of Value Sufficient to Satisfy and Say the wilhin Tudgment ands to Drovide that the Jame may be table a further proceedings therein to be had before me or Same other Suffice to whomy ou Shall makes return of your proceedings herein Given undermy hand this - Day of 17-Having the Breadly Dosth of a Ricce of Tumber or Stone to have how mich in Gength of it will make - Soled Foot Rule multiply one by the other and let be a Dinfor to 1728 19 In ches Broad 3 23) 1720 5 Info 5 is in Length Wrvery'd For Barnaly Mithendry Lour Hundred acres of Watered Ungranted Land Situate Lying and being in the country of Tresouch and in the Sos River or Cacapohon and Obounded as followeth Beginning of a Lyon maple and moun trien Burch on the Bast Side the Russon mountain Side Lake atterns and Run thence No. ... 55 ... No Two his idred on Joy three Bles whowhere cake and affiche amongs the Short Hills whine no .... 35 ... 6' Inopandres and Fifty three Poles to he o. Thesmulbak & and a white Oak thence ! .. 55 & Bo Two hundred and Bifly three Blesto Noo mountain Burches and awhite Oak on the mountain Side thence S. ... 35 W Twohundred and Fiftythree Ides to the Beginning the North Dayof November John Lomm the Men Edward Corder Washington S. 66 William Bahse Marker Jam Sir yr most Oge of Hathing ton

Father of the lateReporter of the Suprememe Court. Mount Cornon in Virginia Sept 30 th 1757. Dear Sir Termit me to recommend lot. Fairfax the beaver of this to your Friendly notice while he stary in Phelaselphia. - He's Jon of our lake President who is but just dead and nearly related to the foregent Lord Tairfax Proprietor of this Sech - Business calling him to England he is proceeding hence to Sew York hoping to get a Palsage in the Packet or some This of War. I being a Thanger in your lity wanted Introduction to whom then could I better introduce him than the agreable W Teters. \_ Thope in doing this I make use of no unwelcome liberty of Ido\_ your genteel beatment of myself maderne afterne it and plead my Eacuse - my best respects are tendered to the Governor and I am I'most bled end Oblige Hel with great fruth nov 1759 I 20 this thind my Hanbury Weight for the Deliverance 321909 nov. 1759 Numb.

185
THIS TICKET [No.185] shall, entitle the Possessor of the Posses Robt Cary Egg & Com/2 15 th by L. ..... 15.73 I 10 Ditto DPC & hush ..... 11,209 12 Dillo. do . D. Howle ..... 13452 7 Ditto. do . I Gling ..... 7.481 10 Ditto .. do. I noan .... 10,325 54. Dillo., in all ... . 5 ..... 58198 Henry Richardson Crop... 1759 humps at hokerce, 2 . . . . . . . . . . . . 2 0 5 2 3. . . . . . . . 1056 3 Thes. divedeoby .... 3191 399

26 th June 1778

Mount Viern December 10th of 1799 Kour days betiere his death . Ast. 57.

Corn made ...... 60. Treas & Wheat .... 28 Bush8



Chair brought over in the Mayflower 1620 BY GOVE JNO, CARVER

Governors of Mussachusetts under the first Charter.

Governors of Plymouth Colony.

(John Carvers signature not found)

William. Fradford 1653

Thomas prence yorana 186;

Enlarge

PL. XXXIX.

TO THE

Delaware Pilots.

E took the Pleasure, some Days since, of kindly admonishing you to do your Duty; if perchance you should meet with the (Tea,) Ship Polly, Captain Ayres; a Three Decker which is hourly expected.

We have now to add, that Matters ripen fast here; and that much is expected from those Lads who meet with the Tea Ship.---There is some Talk of a handsome Reward for the Pilot who gives the first good Account of her.---How that may be, we cannot for certain determine: But all agree, that Tar and Feathers will be his Portion, who pilots her into this Harbour. And we will answer for ourselves, that, whoever is committed to us, as an Offender against the Rights of America, will experience the utmost Exertion of our Abilities; as

THE COMMITTEE FOR TARRING AND FEATHERING.

P. S. We expect you will furnish yourselves with Copies of the foregoing and following Letter; which are printed for this Purpose, that the Pilot who meets with Captain Ayres may favor him with a Sight

Committee of Taring and Feathering.

T O

# Capt. AYRES,

Of the Ship P O L L Y, on a Voyage from London to Philadelphia,

SIR,

WE are informed that you have, imprudently, taken Charge of a Quantity of Tea; which has been fent out by the *India* Company, under the Auspices of the Ministry, as a Trial of American Virtue and Refolution.

Now, as your Cargo, on your Arrival here, will most assured bring you into hot water; and as you are perhaps a Stranger to these Parts, we have concluded to advise you of the present Situation of Affairs in Philadelphia---that, taking Time by the Forelock, you may stop short in your dangerous Errand----secure your Ship against the Rasts of combustible Matter which may be set on Fire, and turned loose against her; and more than all this, that you may preserve your own Person, from the Pitch and Feathers that are prepared for you.

In the first Place, we must tell you, that the *Pennsylvanians* are, to a Man, passionately fond of Freedom; the Birthright of Americans; and at all Events are determined to enjoy it.

That they fincerely believe, no Power on the Face of the Earth has a Right to tax them without their Confent,

That in their Opinion, the Tea in your Custody is defigned by the Ministry to enforce such a Tax, which they will undoubtedly oppose; and in so doing, give you every possible Obstruction.

We are nominated to a very disagreeable, but necessary Service. -- To our Care are committed all Offenders against the Rights of *America*; and hapless is he, whose evil Destiny has doomed him to suffer at our Hands.

You are fent out on a diabolical Service; and if you are fo foolish and obstinate as to compleat your Voyage; by bringing your Ship to Anchor in this Port; you may run such a Gauntlet, as will induce you, in your last Moments, most heartily to curse those who have made you the Dupe of their Avarice and Ambition.

What think you Captain, of a Halter around your Neck----ten Gallons of liquid Tar decanted on your Pate----with the Feathers of a dozen wild Geese laid over that to enliven your Appearance?

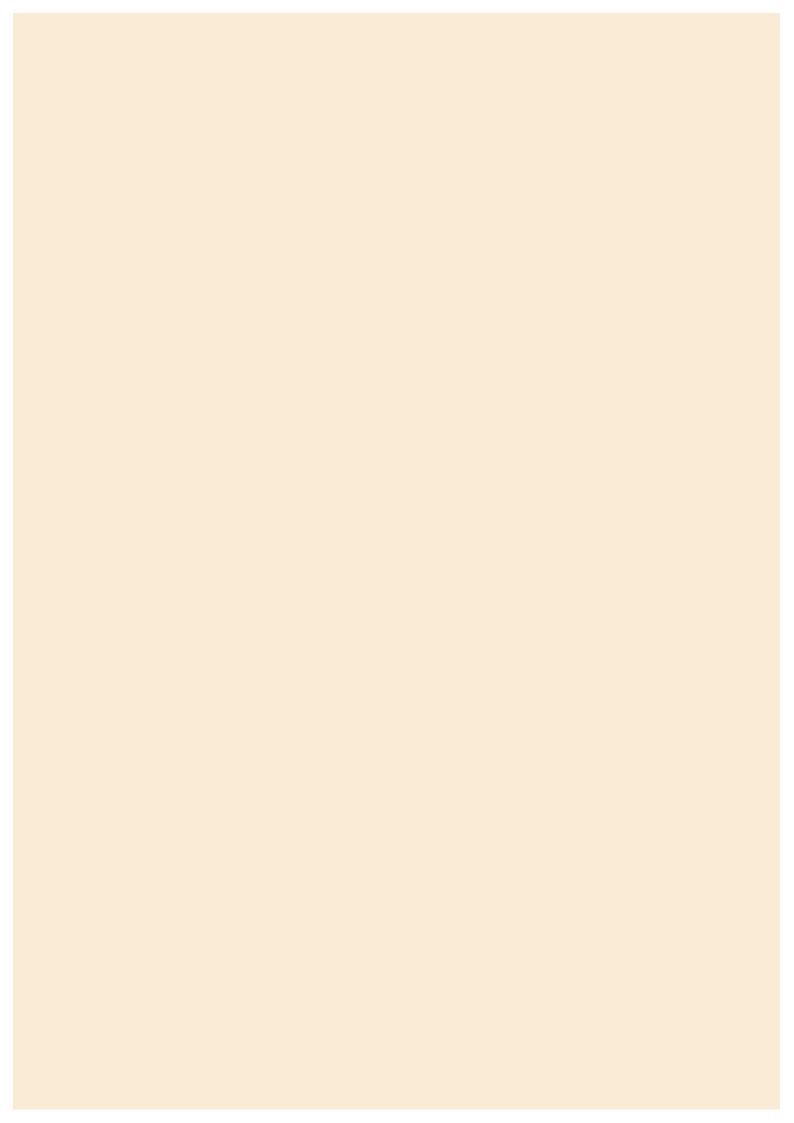
Only think feriously of this---and fly to the Place from whence you came--- fly without Hesitation---without the Formality of a Protest----and above all, Captain Ayres let us advise you to fly without the wild Geese Feathers.

Your Friends to ferve

Philadelphia, Nov. 27, 1773

THE COMMITTEE as before subscribed.

PL. XXXIX.





 ${\bf Cream Pot \, Presented \, to Henry \, Hill \, by \, D^T Franklin.}$ 

Motto "Keep bright the chain."

Epitaph witten 1728.

The Body of

PS ranklin Printer.

(Like the lover of an old Book

Its Contents torn out

And shipt of its Lettering & Gilding)

Lies here, Tood for Worms.

But the Work shall not be lost,

For it will, (a, he believed) appear once more,

In a new and more elegant Edition

Revised and corrected,

By the Author.

PlXLI.

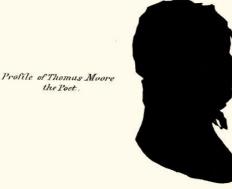
History of the Song of Hail Columbia in the hand writing of the Author Judge Joseph Hopkinson. This long was written in the Summer of 1708 when a war with France was thought to be me dable longress being then in Soften in Speladelphia delib-· crating upon that important Subject - The intest between England I France ans Eaging, and the people of the United States were divided into parties for the one side or the other, some thinking that policy and duty require us was to take part with republican France, as the was called others were for connecting ourselves with England under the belief that the is as the great preservation power of food principles and Safe government, The violation of our rights by both belliquents was fraing us from he patt wer policy Resident to thengton, which was to do equal justice to both, to take part with neither, but to keep a street Thought Neutrality between them The prospect of a respective with France was so ceeding offensive to the portion of the people which exposed her cause pad he violence of the Spent of party has never reden higher I think not to high as it did at that terms on that question - The theatre was then open in our lity I roung man belonging to it whose talent was as a Tinger was about to take his herefit - I had known him when he was at school on this acquaintance he called on me or Saturday afternoon, his tenefit being announced for the following monday - the said he had no toxes taken yet his prospect was that he should duffer alof instead ofreceiving a benefit from the performance but that if he could get a palsiotic Long adapted to the June of the Presidents March" - then the popular air he ded not doubt of a full house, that he pacts of the heatrecal Coops had been triping to a ccomplete of but were datisfied that no wonds could be composed to sent the music of that march I told him I would try for him. He came the next ofkinson and the Jong, Such as it is was ready for him. It was a minunced on money morning and the Theatre was crowded to except, and so continued pight often right for the rest of horseason. The Tongbeing ancored or repeat times each night the audience joining in the Chours - It was also sung at night through the theets by large aftembles of alexa, induding members of longress - The Intrusian was general and the dong was heard, I may lay in every part of the United States. The object of the author was to get up an american Spect, which should be independent of and above the interest possions and policy of both beligerents, and look and feel exclusively for our own honour and rights Not an allusion is made either to France or indand or the quarrel between then or to which was the parous with both pashes, at least neither Could disason hubitments it inculcated It was truly american and nothing also and he patritic feelings of every american heart responded to it beyond any expectation of the Ruthon, and beyond any merit boast of exapt that of being truly and exclusively patriolic it's dentiments and spirit "Wyoming Band "at wilhesbarre, who had requested It author to give hem an account of the occasion for which "Hack Columbra" - was composed

# IN CONGRESS.

	The DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of New-Hampfire, Maljachujetis-Bay,
	Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia,
	North Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, TO
	Benedict amold Esquire
	TTE, repofing efpecial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity,
	DO, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be
	Major Generale
	in the Army of the United States, raifed for the Defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every
	hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Mayor
	General by doing and performing all manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do frictly
	charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as
	Major General, And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to
	Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress.
	for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Army of the United States,
	or any other your fuperior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the
	Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress.
	DATED at Philadelphia May 2.4 1777
	By Order of the CONGRESS,
ATTEST Column	Thomsonfuy John Hancock PRESIDENT.
ATTEST. Otto	
	2. 8

Enlarge

PLALL



Cut at the Philadelphia Museum

hew york montay July 2 1802 My Sear Denny . Thave scarcely found a moments lessure since Test my friends in Ohladelphia to tell how warmly I remember Them and how much I regret the very hopely favewell There taken - but I bust they will do me the justice to believe that they live is my recollection and this our the wide water of the adaptic shall be no Lette to the livelings of my gratitude the Talls of the Papais deletter me eatremely & I fell quite Indebtes to Mr Meridith for having works one to viset them - Magara what There resums my no obution to see ) must be almost too hemendous to produce Losations of pleasure - I know not whether it is, that I feel the magnificance of hature to an except almost painful or that I have some kind of kindred affection for her humasture productions bat artainly I rather med such grandeurs as hore of keegara, and teen with more pleasure to the minora sidera" of Creation - you remember alenside - But Wallers Longs all on the mayer the the There hentered you comme so fant in a letter to More morny. Which (as you will have a formal presentation from Thornton) is. I then the most certain way of making you an greyes "at once Is morrow I thank of setting out for allany and shall he obliged Implose to give up all expectation of heavy from you till I reach Halipas when you must lived for me to the case of S. andrew Mitthell I shall have but tome now to to misorile you a like for which I wrote on my way from Philadelphia and which They you will give to which I wrom

Nors Hopkman with my best begars ar un

merable husband \_ I an looking arrivally for livery \_

Yours my die Tennie

very smeent \_

Momes morres\_

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