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Part 20, by J. Jay Smith**

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CURIOSITIES, PART 20 ***

AMERICAN HISTORICAL CURIOSITIES, Part 20.

**AMERICAN HISTORICAL
AND
LITERARY CURIOSITIES**

By John Jay Smith

Part 20.

Second Series

1860

AMERICAN
Historical and Literary Curiosities;

CONSISTING OF

Fac-Similes of some Plates, &c. Relating to

COLUMBUS,

AND

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS of the REVOLUTION,

&c. &c.

WITH A VARIETY OF RELIQUES, ANTIQUITIES, AND AUTOGRAPHS.

EDITED AND ARRANGED,

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SEVERAL AUTOGRAPH COLLECTORS,

BY

JOHN JAY SMITH,

MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, ETC.

SECOND SERIES—COMPLETE IN ITSELF.

NEW YORK:

CHARLES B. RICHARDSON.

1860.

P R E F A C E.

THE First Series of "American Historical and Literary Curiosities," by John F. Watson, Esq. and myself, was commenced privately as a means of preserving many documents in the possession of our friends and ourselves; but they soon increased to such importance by contributions, that it was determined to publish them. Five editions were demanded by the public at home and abroad, and the work is now scarce and high-priced. The plates being worn out, no other edition of it is likely soon, if ever, to be issued.

This Second Series, complete in itself, owes its origin to the Commercial Panic, when it was desirable to employ several artists in want of work. It has been carried through by the assistance and contributions of various friends. I am particularly indebted to Ferdinand J. Dreer, Esq., Peter Force, Esq., Lewis J. Cist, Esq., Frank M. Etting, Esq., J. Wingate Thornton, Esq., Hon. George Folsom, Herman and Caleb Cope, Esqs., J. Francis Fisher, Esq., John Macalester, Esq., Charles J. Wister, Esq., Winthrop Sargent, Esq., Bushrod W. Adams, Esq. and others, and to the Philadelphia Library for the rare Broad-sides of the Revolution, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, whose valuable collections have been opened to my use in the handsomest and most liberal manner.

It may be proper to copy here a portion of the Preface to the fifth edition of the First Series, explanatory of the object of the work:—

"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. Every thing 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 some of the most rare '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."

As in the First Series, 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 and adapting the varied materials here presented, but I have been rewarded by the pleasure of the pursuit.

JOHN JAY SMITH.

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

Original Volume 2, Part Nine

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PLATE LVI.—1. “Home, Sweet Home,” in fac-simile of the handwriting of the author, John Howard Payne; dated Washington City, September 13, 1841. *In possession of the same.*

2. Touching Note from Dr. E. K. Kane to his friend the publisher, Mr. George W. Childs, in which he remarks of his last volume, “The book, poor as it is, has been my coffin.” *In possession of Ferdinand J. Dreer.*

PLATE LVII.—General Washington’s Gold Watch and Seal, &c., bequeathed to Judge Bushrod Washington during his life, and, after his death, to Bushrod W. Adams, of Philadelphia, *in whose possession it now is carefully preserved.*

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3. Invitation from General Washington, addressed “Lieutenant Gookin, 2d N. Hamp.,” to dine. The artist has omitted the words on the little scrap of paper enclosed, *viz.*, the “Parole, Alexandria,” and the countersigns “Bedford, and Colchester.” *In possession of J. Wingate Thornton, Boston,* who remarks that the smallness and inferiority of the paper both of the invitation and the enclosure, speak of the gloomiest period of the Revolution. No date, except November 17. Lieutenant Gookin was a distinguished officer, related to Mr. Thornton.

4. Singular Autograph Signature of Tobias Lear, Secretary of General Washington, and long a member of his family. *In possession of Ferdinand J. Dreer.*

5. Robert Morris’s Card, inviting the Honble. Mr. Jenifer to dine, 1781. This card shows the inferior style of issuing such invitations at that early date of our history. *In possession of Ferdinand J. Dreer.*

The Star-spangled banner.

O! say, can ye see by the dawn's early light,
 What so proudly we hail'd by the twilight's last gleaming?
 Whose bright stars & broad stripes, through the clouds of the fight,
 O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
 And the rocket's red glare - the bomb's bursting in air,
 Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there
 O! say does that Star-spangled banner yet wave
 O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave?.

On that shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
 Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
 What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
 As it fitfully blows, half-conceals, half-discloses?
 Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
 In full's glory reflected, now shines on the stream.
 'Tis the star-spangled banner - O! long may it wave
 O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave

And where is that host, that so vauntingly swore
 That the havoc of war & the battle's confusion
 A home & a country should leave us no more?
 Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution
 No refuge could save the hireling & slave
 From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
 O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave.

O! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
 Between their lov'd homes & the war's desolation
 Blest with vict'ry & peace, may the heav'n rescued land
 Praise the power that hath made & preserved us a nation
 Then conquer we must - when our cause it is just,
 And this be our motto - In God is our trust -
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Washington
 Oct 21 1840

T. Key

1
Home, Sweet Home!

PL. LXI.

'Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like Home!
A charm from the sky, seems to hallow us there
Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with elsewhere!

Home, home! Sweet, sweet Home!
There's no place like Home!
There's no place like Home!

11.

An exile from Home, splendour dazzles in vain!
Oh, give me my lowly thatch'd cottage again!
The birds singing gaily, that came at my call—
Give me them — with the peace of mind dearer than all!

Home, home! Sweet, sweet Home!
There's no place like Home!
There's no place like Home!

John Howard Payne!

Washington City, Sept: 19: 1841.

My dear Sir,

* * * * *

At present however
I see no possible chance
of being able to work
in any way, and the
unabated talent
that crowd around
me must will spall
an able man.

I leave in
a fortnight probably,
for Europe as far
west of last recourse
to call my last
blessing. The books
press as at 4 - had
been my coffin

M^r Formell's
house is at present

my home I shall
leave it by the D. P.
line of I'm afraid
and if you will
permit me, to the
hospitality of my
kind friend Mr.
Peter for the
night at Helton

Very respectfully
Yours friend

G. H. Kane?

Geo W. Childs

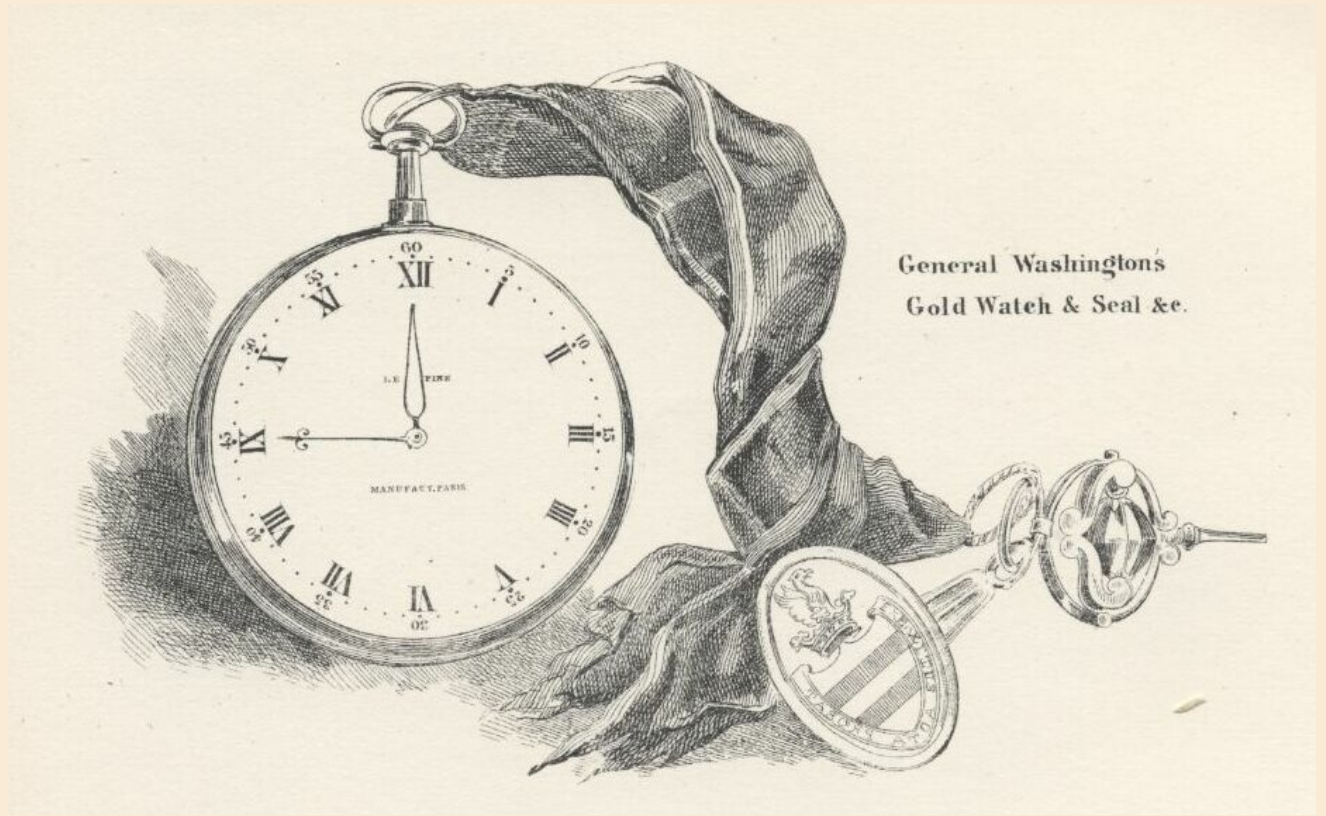
D. H. Childs

N. W.

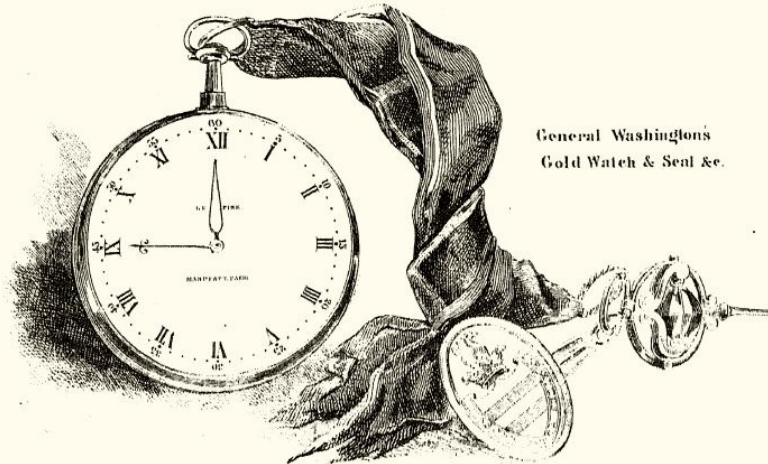
Sept 23 56

Interesting Note from D^r Kane.

Enlarge



Enlarge



General Washington's
Gold Watch & Seal &c.

Page of General Washington's Weather Diary

- 31
October 1799
19. Morning quite clear with a small breeze from the S.E. - Mer at 43. - A great circle round the Sun about Noon which cost 2 1/2 hours. & towards night it began to lower much - Mer 55 at Night
 20. Morning very heavy - Wind southerly & Mer at 54. - A strong S.E. all day between the top of the Clouds - but the Rays of the Sun were 62 at Night. - Doct. & Mrs. wife & three daughters - and young Dan. McCarty came to dinner & stay'd all night
 21. Morning clear - wind southerly Mer at 60 - the forepart of the day variable - the latter part clear warm & pleas ant - Mer at 64
 22. Clear, with the Wind at N.W. & Mer at 58. in the morning fresh Wind all day from the same quarter. - Mer 50 at Night Mr. & Mrs. Leston (British Minister) & Lady came to dinner - as did young Mr. & Mrs. McCarty. -
 23. Morning clear & calm - Mer at 42. - Clear all day wind coming out from the N. West but not fresh - Mer 59 at Night. - Mr. & Mrs. Herbert. Mr. & Mrs. Patten - Mr. & Mrs. Gilman came to dinner - the last stay'd all night. -

General Washington Presents his Compliments to
Lieut Goshen and requests the favor of his
Company at Dinner tomorrow at 3 o'clock

Tobias Lear -
Secretary to the President
of the United States.

Mr. R. Morris, presents his compliments
to The Honble Mr. Jarrifer
and requests the favour of his company to
dine on Thursday next 4 o'clock
Monday 12 Nov. 1781

Enlarge

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