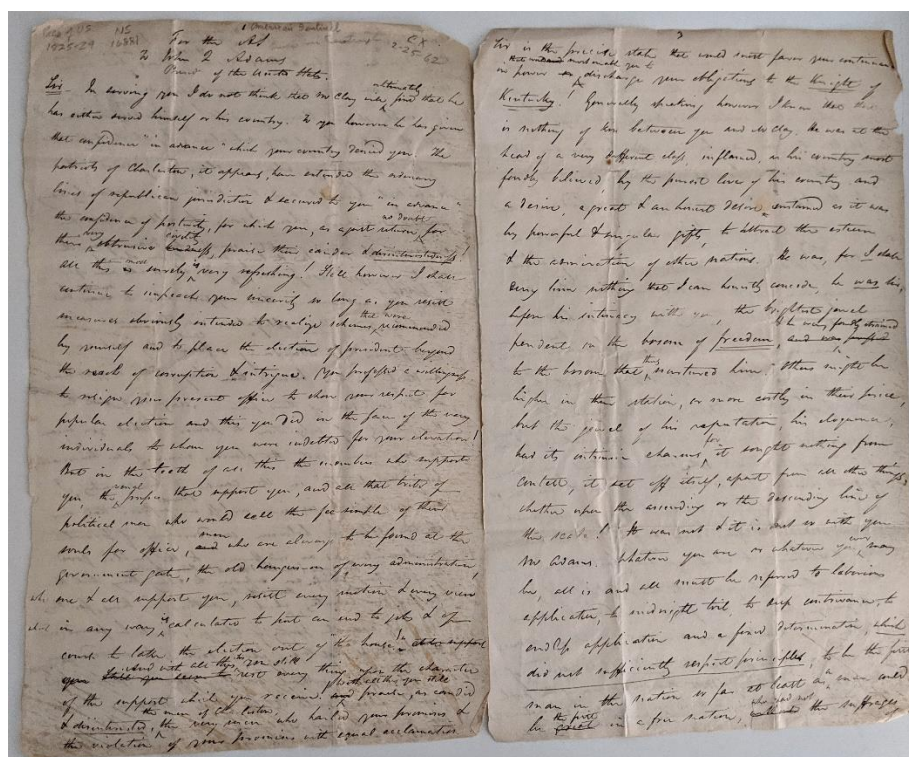


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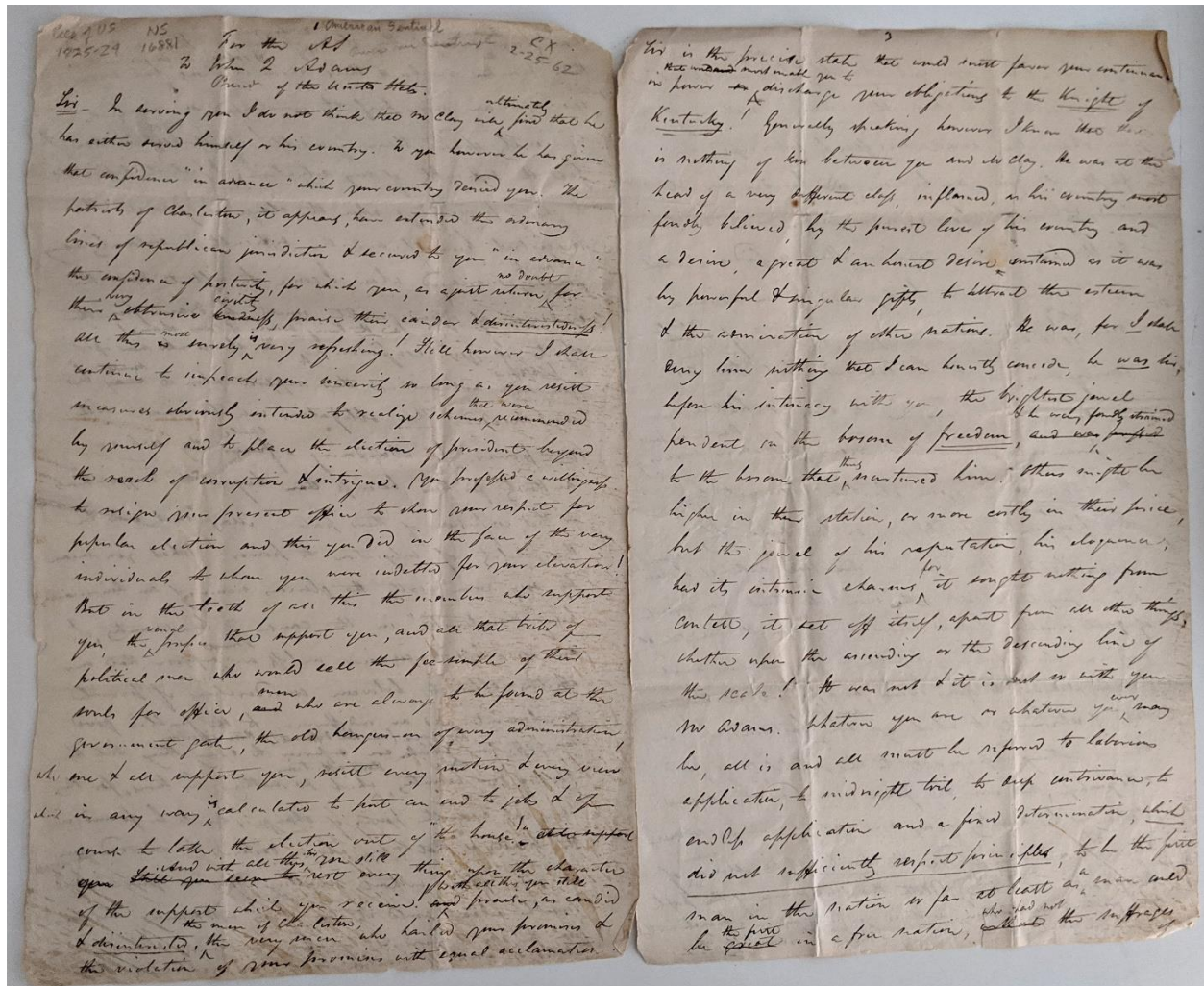
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African Americana, Banking, Masons, Medical Americana,  
Steam Navigation, Temperance & U. S. Election History,

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## MANUSCRIPT LETTER WRITTEN FOR PUBLICATION ATTACKING J. Q. ADAMS AND PRAISING HENRY CLAY



1. (Adams, John Quincy) Open Letter Sent to the Philadelphia Newspaper, *The American Sentinel*, addressed "To John Q. Adams, President of the United States, & signed Lysimachus". ca. 1828. \$ 750.00

Two folio sheets of manuscript. 325 x 220 mm., [12 ¾ x 8 inches]. 4 pp., approximately 1500 words of text, written in ink in a mostly legible hand. Letter previously folded with minor tears to edges.

Autograph Letter Signed with a pseudonym "Lysimachus", known in history as a revered bodyguard of Alexander the Great. At the very top of the first leaf the words "For the A S" are

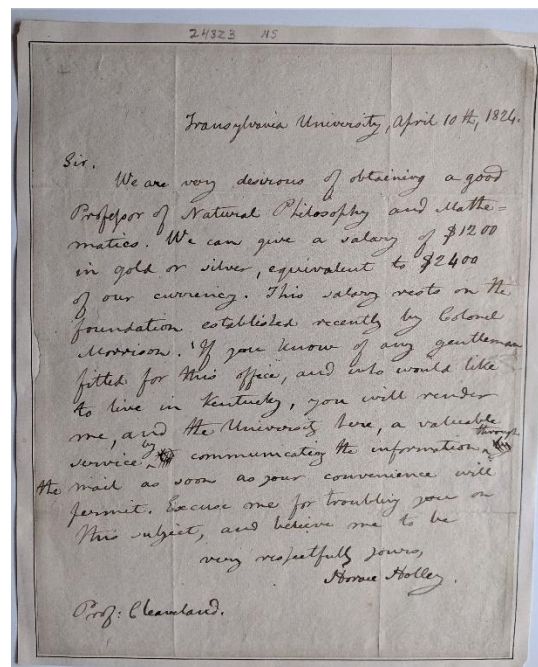
written and believed to mean *American Sentinel*. Written by a partisan defender of Henry Clay, the author castigates John Quincy Adams for using his power to hire only those “whom you are indebted for your election. . . those that support you are the old hangers on.”

I have been amongst the slaves, the very serfs from Europe. I have witnessed their drunken \_\_\_\_\_? and mock election but have never seen a man more perfectly worshipped and more obediently served than yourself. The slaves that now uphold you be assured will not continue their support when it most will be needed. Their obligation will terminate with your downfall.

The author praises Henry Clay, calling him “the brightest jewel in the pendent in the bosom of Freedom.” He continues by “this venal promise of office” has not “discharged your obligation to the Knight of Kentucky.” This refers to the “corrupt bargain” where in the presidential election of 1824, Clay influenced members of the House of Representatives to back Adams over Andrew Jackson after the electoral college was unable to determine a winner. A few days afterwards Clay was named Secretary of State a few days later.

Excellent example of a political letter filled with the politics of grievance and partisan disdain for the incumbent. (644)

### JOB POSTING AND SALARY RANGE FOR PROFESSOR OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY – 1824



2. (African Americana: Transylvania University). Holly Horace. Autograph Letter signed to Prof. [Parker] Cleaveland. Transylvania University, April 10, 1826. \$ 100.00

4to. 8 ½ x 11 inches. Letter in ink, legible hand; fourteen lines; set into a paper border at a later date.



Fine letter announcing a position opening for a professor of Natural Philosophy and Mathematics at Transylvania University. Holley asks Prof. Cleaveland if "you know of any gentleman fitted for this office, and who would like to live in Kentucky...we can give a salary of \$1200 in gold or silver, equivalent to \$2400 of our currency".

Horace Holley (1781 -1827) was a Unitarian minister and president of Transylvania University in Lexington. A Yale educated lawyer, he converted to Unitarianism in 1809. In 1818, Holley was offered the presidency of the struggling Transylvania University. He accepted, and immediately began a series of changes that positioned the university among the nation's elite institutions. However, his theological views clashed with those of the Presbyterian Church, which had historically wielded great influence at Transylvania. Holley's sympathies for the Federalist Party also won him a number of enemies in the state. His opponents began to spread rumors regarding his personal life. Governor Joseph Desha also opposed Holley and persuaded the General Assembly to cut off the university's funding. In the face of such overwhelming issues, Holley resigned his post in 1827.

Holley moved his family to New Orleans, Louisiana where he was offered the presidency of a planned new university. However, before the university could be opened, Holley contracted yellow fever while vacationing aboard a ship bound for New York and died July 31, 1827.

"Prof. Cleaveland" is undoubtedly Parker Cleaveland (1780-1858) who was an educator, studied law and theology, and was, in 1803, appointed tutor at his alma mater, Harvard. In 1805, he became Bowdoin College's first professor of mathematics and natural philosophy.

Allibone, *Critical Dictionary of English Literature*, I, p. 394 and 866. (642)

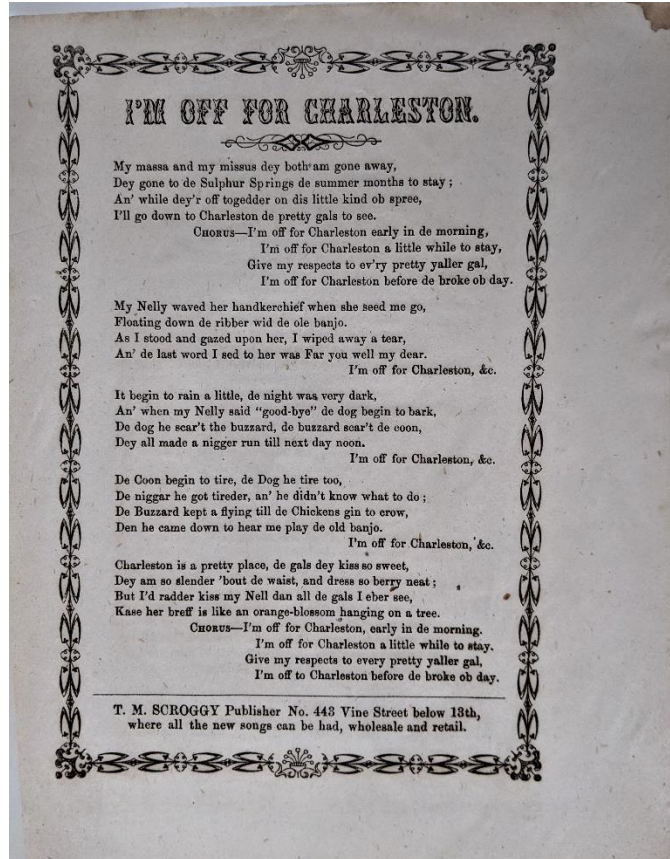
**“MY MASSA AND MY MISSUS DEY BOTH AM GONE AWAY”**

3. African Americana. *I'm Off for Charleston*. (Philadelphia): T. M. Scroggy, Publisher No. 443 Vine Street, ca. 1853-58. \$ 750.00

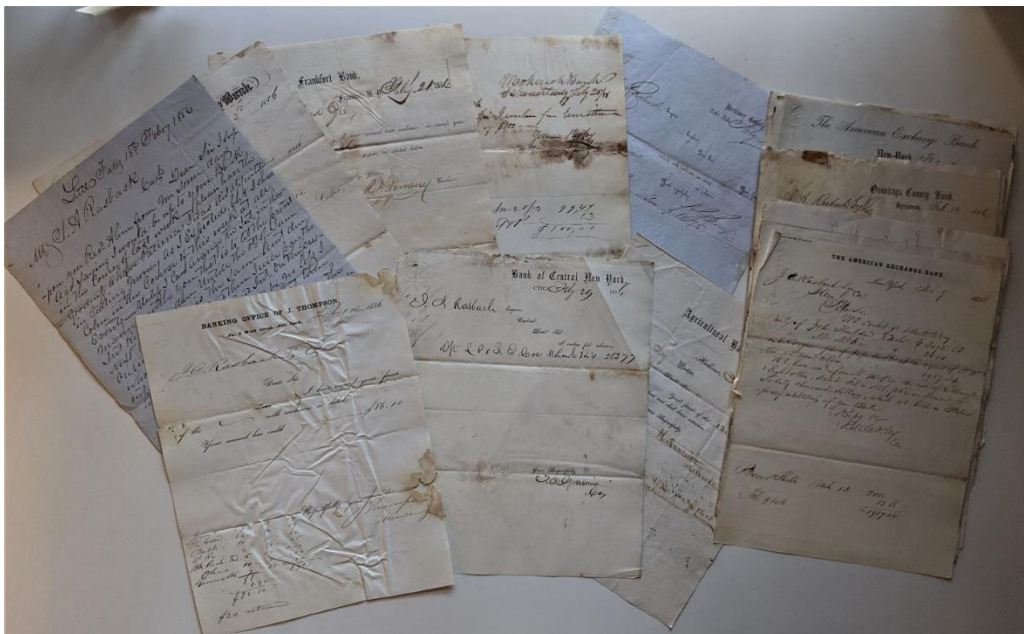
Broadside. 8vo. 210 x 155 mm., [8 x 6 inches]. Lyrics only printed in five stanzas with chorus, enclosed within a decorative printed border. Small stain to upper right corner, corners with slight folds, otherwise an excellent copy.

Rare song sheet written in Negro dialect, telling the story a young man and his true love Nell and his all the girls he met on his way to Charleston. Lyrics by S. W. Auner who was the author of the song “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” first printed in 1861. *I'm off to Charleston* was published in a number of editions in the 1850's, apparently the first was in 1853, printed in Philadelphia by Eckel and Johnson. This issue published by T. M. Scroggy appeared between 1853 and 1858. A number of editions also appeared in New York. All editions are rare.

OCLC cites copies of the 1853 edition at New York Historical Society and our copy printed by T. M. Scroggy only at AAS. (652)



BANK DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY IN HERKIMER, NEW YORK



4. (Banking Archive). Rasbach, John A. Banking Documents of John A. Rasbach, Some Dealing with E. Remington & Sons of Herkimer, New York. 1856. \$ 300.00

Folio manuscript collection. Mostly 250 x 200 mm., [10 x 8 inches]. Letterhead Sheets. 29 pp. total. Folds, light browning, small tears at folds.

Archive comprised of 16 pp. with the American Exchange Bank, and 12 pp. relating to the Albany City Bank, Frankfort Bank, Herkimer County Bank, Bank of Central New York, Agricultural Bank, Onondaga County Bank, Mohawk Valley Bank, and H.J. Miner's Bank. There is also a 1 p. letter from Berry P. Churchill to J.A. Rasbach, Little Falls, February 18, 1856.

Collection of hand written banking documents with apparent relevance to the Remington Arms Company on letterheads of various historical banks in Upstate New York State. Most are addressed to J.A. Rasbach who was John Adam Rasbach (1805-1892), an attorney and cashier of the American Exchange Bank in Ilion, New York. Herkimer County history notes that: "In 1852 Ilion became an incorporated village. The person whom history credits as most entitled to be remembered because of this move was John A. Rasbach, a lawyer recently come to the community from Herkimer who spent his own money to help finance the necessary steps for incorporation."

Mr. Rasbach had attended Fairfield Academy after going through the local schools, had become a merchant in Herkimer, studied law on the side, and been admitted to the bar. In 1852 he came to Ilion to attend to some of the legal business of E. Remington and his Remington Armory.

"E. Remington" was Eliphalet Remington who founded Remington Arms Company in 1816 in Ilion, New York, as E. Remington and Sons. It is the oldest company in the United States which still makes its original product and is the oldest continuously operating manufacturer in North America. A document from February 9, 1856, "... we have rec'd from W. McKee the note of E. Remington & eight others... payable on demand for twenty thousand dollars..."

Many of the documents refer to various transfers of money between banks and are signed by the cashiers. One particularly interesting example, however, is signed by "Geo. S. Coe", who is Vice President of The American Exchange Bank, the letter dated February 1, 1856, which reminds Rasbach that "Your a/c with us has gradually increased until it now stands DR \$20,000 about half of which is made of notes redeemed. We cannot consent to go on with this account constantly accumulating debit balance, and you must therefore remit for the protection of your notes, and also abstain from drawing any checks upon us until the a/c be made good".

The letter from Benj. P. Churchill to J.A. Rasbach, Little Falls, February 18, 1856, asks Rasbach for patience in repaying his line of credit and hopes to repay two months at once. He further asks to pay interest on the loan on a yearly basis. Benjamin Phillips Churchill was a farmer in Little Falls. In the period soon after these papers (following 1856) E. Remington & Sons supplied a large proportion of the small arms used by the United States government in the Civil War.

George A. Hardin, *A History of Herkimer County New York*, Syracuse, 1893, For Rasbach see pp. 89-90, 92. For Remington the most important information is on p. 475, with numerous other references. (651)

“SAID STOCK WAS BOUGHT FOR CASH. . .”



5. (Broadside Advertisement). Hosmer, George. *Stop! Stop! Stop!! and Look at an Entire New Stock of Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, which the Subscriber Offers for Sale at a very Slight Advance from Cost, at his Store in the Centre of Weston.* Boston: Propeller Press, 142 Washington Street, Boston, 1852. \$ 350.00

4to. 300 x 220 mm., [12 x 9 inches]. Printed on thin paper, folded, with a few minor holes at center fold, brown with age and a few spots and scuffs, otherwise very good and sound.

Rare Boston printed broadside, promoting the goods for sale at the shop of George Hosmer of Weston, Massachusetts. Scores of items are listed, some with prices.

Not in OCLC and the catalogues of the Boston Athenaeum and the American Antiquarian Society. (646)



**"I HAVE BEEN LIVING TWO MONTHS WITHIN SIGHT, JUST ACROSS THE RIVER, OF A SLAVE STATE."**

Cincinnati March 17th 1841.

Dear Br. Through the kindness of our Heavenly Father I am quite as well as I could have expected. I have spoken very little in public since I came here. Not being able to engage in my appropriate duties immediately, I requested of the Executive Com. that my compensation whatever it should be, I should not yet get what it will be, as nothing has been said about it, & I cannot yet judge what it will cost me to live here, or how much I can labor, might not commence till the first of March. This has left me at liberty to be a little lazy, writing some for the Missionary Cause, getting acquainted with ministers personally & by correspondence, studying my field of labor its geography, the peculiarities of the people, the resources & past missionary doings of this region &c. &c. & writing & talking Temperance a little. Last Sat. I preached my first Missionary Sermon & took up a subscription & collection of \$156.57 in the house. Yesterday I went up to Lane Sem. & addressed the Theological Students on the subject of Foreign Missions. I shall not attempt to preach more than once a week this Spring & see how that affects me. In about 3 or 4 weeks I expect to start on a tour or three months tour down the Ohio & up the Mississippi so as to make as extensive an acquaintance as I can, in Iowa & Wisconsin Territories & Illinois & get the ministers & churches interested in this great work. What I should have for me to do, I know not whether to preach a little longer, or to find a grave here time will disclose. My health has been generally very good except a slight bilious attack, occasioned by exposure to the night air walking out evenings as I have been accustomed to in Vermont. I was laid on my back about five or six days by it. & Mrs Curtis is just now experiencing a similar attack. I am told for my comfort that all new comers

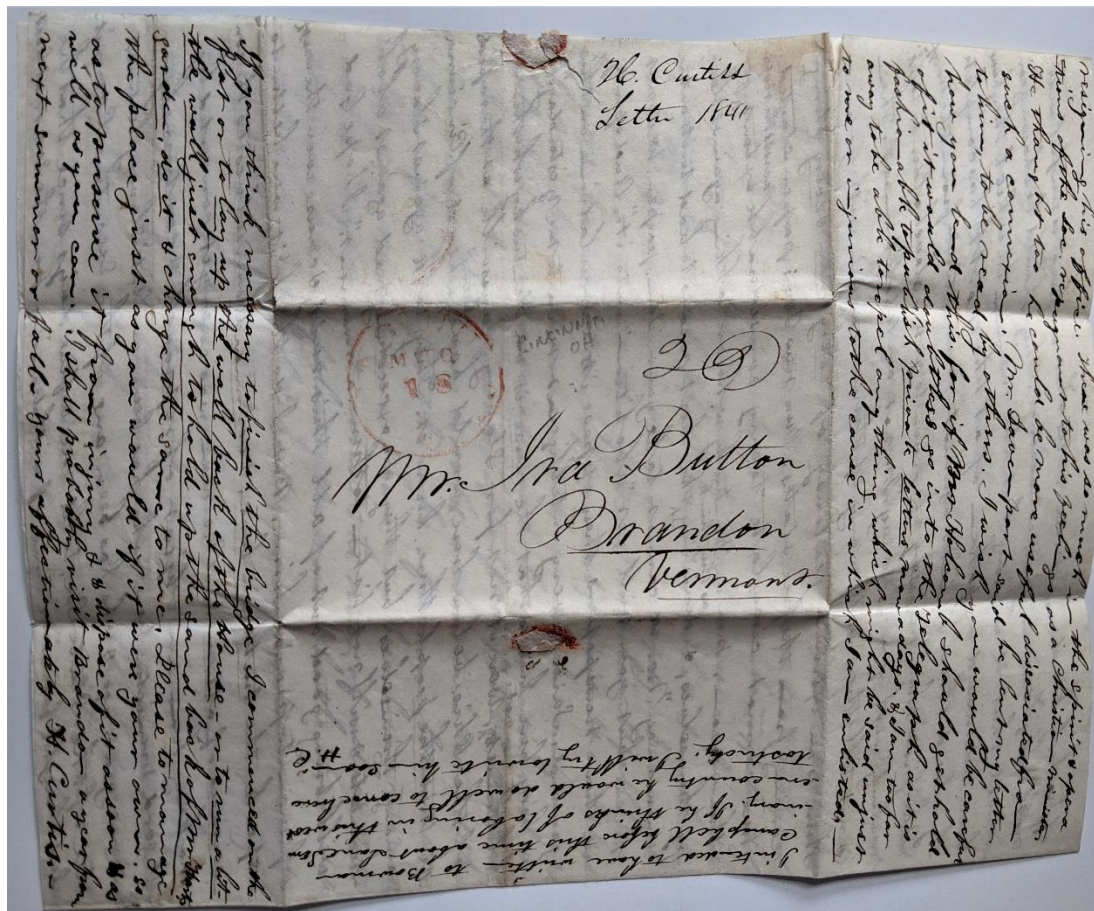
6. Curtis, Rev. H(arvey). *Autograph Letter Signed to Mr. Ira Button. Brandon, Vermont. Cincinnati, March 17, 1841.* \$ 300.00

4to. 250 x 200 mm., [9 ¾ x 7 ¾ inches]. 4 pp. Manuscript in ink, previously folded with address and postmark on page 4. A few minor tears at folds, otherwise a very legible letter in very good condition.

A very informative letter, written by the Rev. Harvey Curtis to his friend from his home town in Vermont. Rev. Curtis had a few months earlier moved from Vermont to Cincinnati and explains that he has spent most of his time learning about the City and the border states on the Ohio River. After he and his wife fought off "a slight bilious attack" he was preparing for two months travel up the Mississippi to Iowa and Wisconsin and the territories around Illinois. He had recently delivered a sermon and raised some money for the American Home Missionary Society, of which he was a member.

Much of the letter is devoted to his observation about slavery in Kentucky and the local population that supported it or lived with it as a necessary evil. He writes in part, "I have been living two months insight, just across the river, of a slave state. The more I learn of slavery the more I loathe it as a state of society hateful to God & injurious to man – master as well as slave."





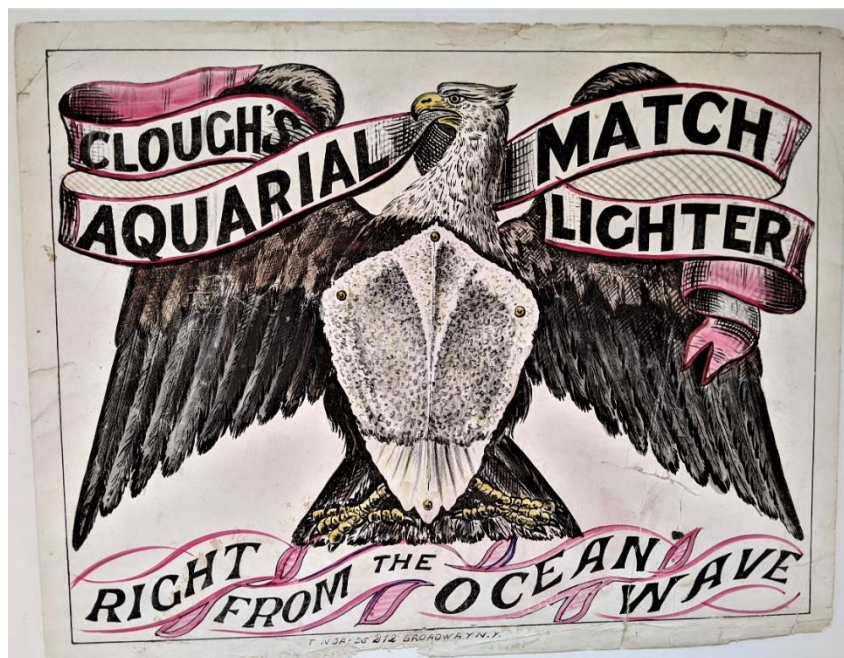
After describing how Christians in the North must in “conversation, correspondence, and by actions of public bodies so speak as to quicken the consciences of Southern Christians . . . but the manner in which they have been addressed and spoken of at the North has completely closed their minds against conviction from the North.”

“The first thing necessary in order to get a slaveholder to talk calmly with you is to say, ‘I am not an Abolitionist’ and not till then will many of them reason with you.” He states many of the people of Louisville see that slavery is a curse and that without it the city would have been “ahead of Cincinnati and the people know it.

Curtis was a member of the American Home Missionary Society which was formed in 1826 with the mission of financially assisting congregations on the American frontier until they could become self-sufficient. Much of the early funding of the Society came from the South and so it took incremental steps in its position on slavery until 1857 when it officially renounce it and became part of the abolitionist’s movement.

See the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University in for information on the American Home Missionary Society.

### EAGLE AND THE FLAME



7. (Decorative Advertisement). Clough's Aquarial Match Lighter: Right from the Ocean Wave. New York: T. Noakes, ca. 1920. \$ 75.00

Color lithograph highlighted with red watercolor. Printed on card stock; tear to center repaired with tape, without loss; edges bumped, with piece missing from lower edge. Striking image of an Eagle and Shield. (647)

### THE INVENTION OF THE STEAM POWERED VESSEL

8. Hutchings, John. "*Honor to whom honor is due.*" *Origin of steam navigation. A view of Collect pond and its vicinity in the city of New York in 1793. On which pond, the first boat, propelled by steam with paddle wheels or screw propellers was constructed by John Fitch, six years before Robert Fulton made trial of his boat upon the river Seine, in France, and ten years prior to his putting into operation [sic] his boat Clermont in New York; with a representation of the boat and its machinery, on the Collect pond.* Williamsburgh, L. Island: 1846. \$ 600.00

Folio broadside lithograph. 340 x 482 mm. (15 3/4 x 19 inches). Text printed in three columns. Illustrated with an image of Fitch's boat the *Perseverance* in the upper right, Robert Fulton's *Clermont* in the upper left, and an image of Fitch's drawing of his *Model Boat* made in 1797. The broadside is folded, with wrinkles at the center fold, a small piece is missing from the upper right corner, a few tears at right margin; some insignificant water staining at right margin, otherwise sound and attractive.







FROM THE COLLECTION OF ONE OF THE FIRST MAJOR COLLECTOR OF LINCOLNIANA



9. *The Lincoln Family*. New York: Currier & Ives, 152 Nassau Street, 1867. \$ 250.00

Oblong 4to. 280 c 355 mm., [10  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 13  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches]. Lithographic portrait of the Lincoln family at home. Margin of print discolored by previous framing, abrasions on the verso caused by framing, a few tears and corner expertly repaired. With faults a deep impression of this famous print. This copy with the added legend printed at the lower margin which reads, "For Sale by O. H. Oldroyd, & Co., 101 E. Friend Street. Columbus O."

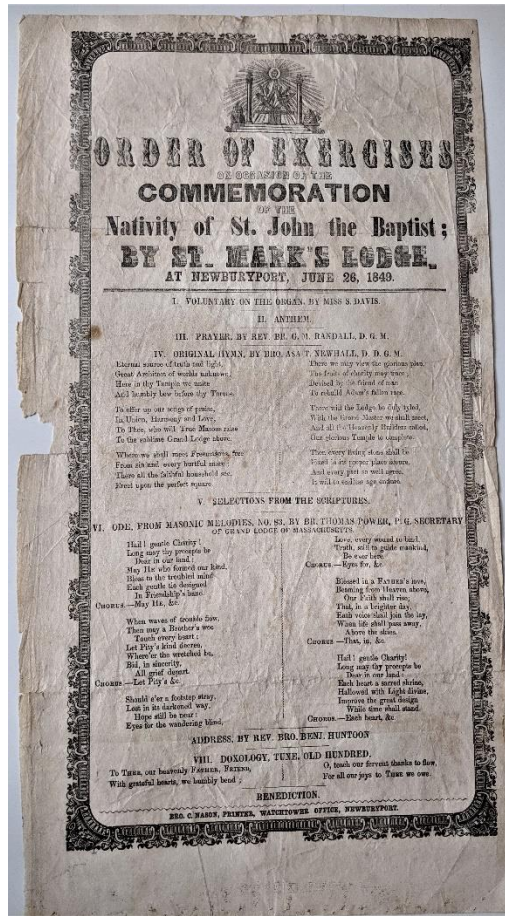
One of the more recognizable lithographs printed by Currier in Ives two years after the assassination of Lincoln. This is the third issue, carrying the address of C & I's New York address.

Osborn H. Oldroyd was perhaps the first and one of the most important collectors of Lincolniana that sprang up after the Civil War. While serving four years with the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry during the War, he became enamored with President Lincoln and dedicated the remainder of his life to collecting and selling books, prints, ephemera and manuscripts relating to Lincoln and life. As J. Allen writes, "With unfailing devotion he gathered pictures, speeches, newspaper articles, books, furniture, and other Lincoln mementos that he could obtain by gift or purchase. He sustained himself and his family by selling some of the relics he collected. This gathering of Lincolniana continued for over 66 years."

A major collection that he formed was purchased by the U. S. Government in 1925 for \$ 50,000 and this group of material became the foundation of the collections at the Lincoln Museum in Washington, D. C. There is also a large collection formed by Oldroyd at the University of Chicago and Springfield, Illinois.

Jane Cooper Bland, *Currier & Ives, a Manual for Collectors*, no. 1882. Josephine D. Allen, "Documenting the Lincoln Museum Collection, *The Lincoln Museum*, Washington, D.C., 1963. University of Chicago, *Guide to the Lincoln Collection: Osborne H. Oldroyd Collection, 1830-1929*. (650)

WITH AN ORIGINAL HYMN BY BROTHER ASA T. NEWHALL, D.D.G.M.



10. (Masonic Ceremony). *Order of Exercises on Occasion of the Commemoration of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist; By St. Mark's Lodge, at Newburyport, June 26, 1849.* Newburyport: Bro. C. Nason, Printer, Watchtower Office, [1849]. \$ 250.00

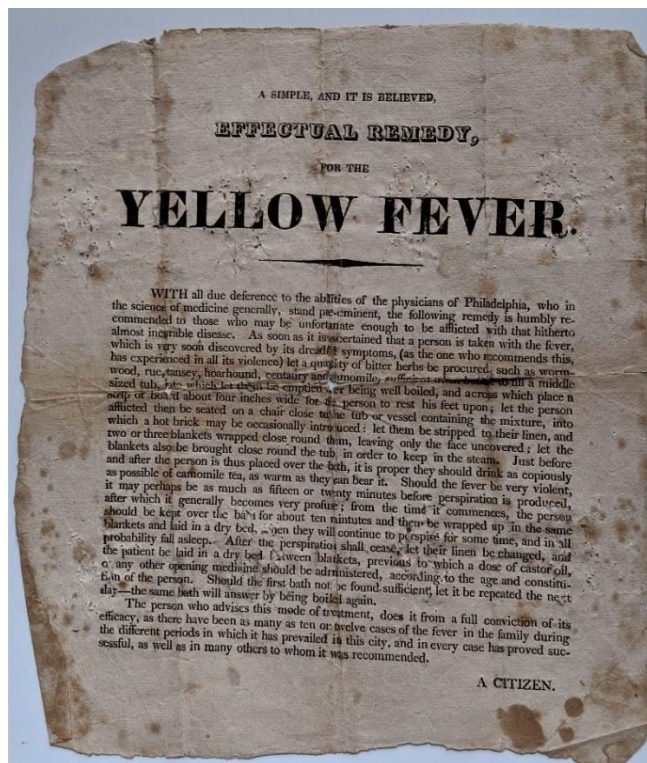
Folio Broadside. 370 x 190 mm., [14 ½ x 7 ¾ inches]. Woodcut of Masonic symbol at the top center of the broadside, text within a decorative border. Some discoloration to the paper, left edge with a few tears and a small piece missing without loss of text; previously folded.

The feast of St. John the Baptist is one of two sacred days of remembrance established by the Grand Lodge in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. St. John was considered the patron saint of carpenters and masons, and this is commemorated every year during the last week of June.

The ceremony begins with an organ recital by Miss S. Davis, an Anthem, and a prayer by Br. G. M. Randall, D.G.M. This is followed by an original hymn by Bro. Asa T. Newhall, D.D.G.M. printed in six stanzas, each with four lines of lyric. Part 5 is Selections from the Scriptures followed by an Ode, from Masonic Melodies, No. 83. By Br. Thomas Power, P.G. Secretary of Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. An Address by Br. Benj. Huntoon is next in order followed by Doxology Tune Old Hundred and finally the Benediction.

Not found in OCLC. (649)

## The Following Remedy is Recommended



11. (Medical Broadside) A Citizen. *A Simple, and it is Believed, Effectual Remedy, for the Yellow Fever.* (Philadelphia?), ca. 1820. \$ 1,500.00

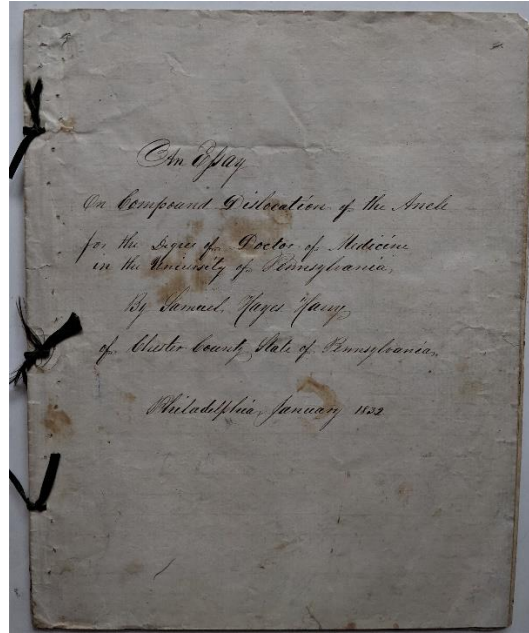
4to. Single sheet. 230 x 200 mm., [9 x 7 3/4 inches]. Drop-title followed by 27 lines of type. Folded, with pinholes tears throughout the text with some loss of individual letters, but still without loss of meaning. Foxed and stained in places.

Rare medical broadside, written in "deference to the abilities of the physicians in Philadelphia". The author who signed the broadside, A Citizen, offers a remedy based on boiled herb and steam to cure the victim. He suggest that the patient be seated above a large basin of hot water containing the boiled herbs. The patient and the basin is to be wrapped in linen, so as to create a sauna effect that will help the infected sweat out the fever and regain his health. "The person who advises this mode of treatment, does it from a full conviction of its efficacy, and there have been as man as ten or twelve cases of the fever in the family during the different periods in which it has prevailed in this city, and in every case has proved successful. . ."

Although this broadside appears to be unrecorded, clever sleuthing by GS found that the text appeared in *The Delaware Gazette* printed in Delhi, New York on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1820. It also appeared in the *Louisiana State Gazette* on 21 September 1820 and it cites its source as *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, a Philadelphia newspaper. In the fall of 1820 there was an outbreak of Yellow Fever in Savannah and as many as 700 people died from the disease. This suggests that the broadside was probably printed in Philadelphia in 1820. Not cited in NUC, OCLC, and not found in the Library Company on-line Catalogue. (640)



“IT WAS THEREFORE CERTAINLY AN ERROR IN THE TREATMENT. . .”



12. (Medical Manuscript). Harry, Samuel Hayes. *An Essay on Compound Dislocation of the Ankle[!]* for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania." Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, January 1832. \$ 500.00

4to. 250 x 200 mm., [10 x 8 inches]. 20 pp. Written in very legible hand. Text tied with green ribbon at spine; some early repair to tears in the paper, some of the leaves may have been washed early on. Text brown in places but the manuscript is quite good condition. Pages 17 and 18 appear twice and show some corrections.

Founded in 1765, the University of Pennsylvania medical school is the nation's first. This essay, by Samuel Hayes Harry (1809-1881), who was a candidate for a medical degree, quotes from Sir Astley Cooper on granulations in the synovial fluid of joints and other medical details concerning "anclcs". Harry points out that amputation was considered necessary in previous cases of ankle dislocation and adds that modern thought has changed on the subject. Harry also describes a particular ankle injury case, which ultimately did result in the death of the patient.

"I think it would have been highly unjustifiable, not to have attempted in the first instance, to save the limb....the indication to be answered is the speedy healing of the wound... for it has been found in simple dislocations, adhesion speedily takes place...It was therefore certainly an error in the treatment of the above case, that the edges of the wound were not brought together and secured by sticks, and adhesive plaster..."

The founder of the School of Medicine was a young Philadelphia physician, John Morgan. The early faculty, including Morgan, had earned medical degrees at the University of Edinburgh and in advanced courses in London. With the University of Edinburgh as their model, they emphasized the need to supplement medical lectures with bedside teaching. (648)

DUNNING THE BOOKSHOP FOR TAKING TOO LONG TO PAY

W. H. Piper & Co.

Washington 1867.  
June 28<sup>th</sup>  
1867.

Sir

Immediately upon the reception of your order, I forwarded by Express to you, a set of the Archives of Aboriginal Knowledge, requesting the money to be enclosed by draft to me, here. Having received no communication from you since, I wish to know whether you understood that that set was to be sold with the subtraction from my old Circular of \$7.50. which I propose paying your Agent, for every Subscriber. If so, you will please enclose me a draft for \$58.50. I cannot collect one cent from those who were indebted to me in the South, prior to the War, so that my necessities compel every enterprise to make all ends meet for my family, in this most extortionate City.

Respectfully  
Mary H. Schoolcraft

13. Schoolcraft, Mary H. *Autograph Letter Signed to W. H. Piper & Co.* Washington: June 28, 1867. \$100.00

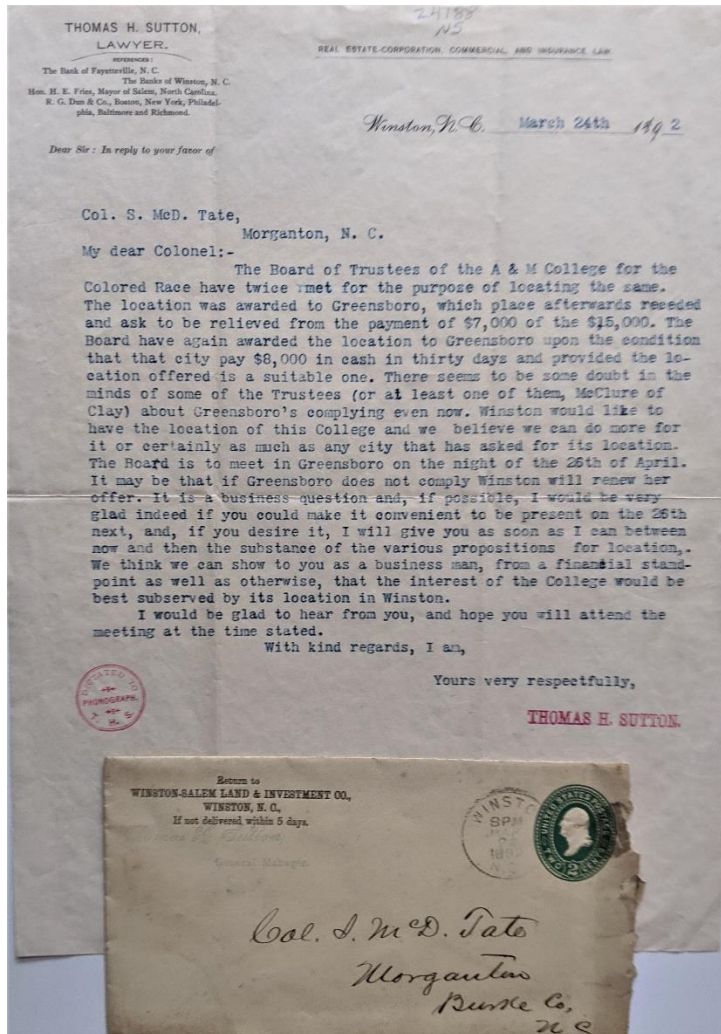
4to. Single sheet of lined paper. 255 x 190 mm., [10 x 7 3/4 inches]. Manuscript letter in ink, written in a large legible hand. Approximately 120 words. Folded.

Mary H. Schoolcraft was the second wife of Henry Schoolcraft, the noted geologist, anthropologist, and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the 1830's. This letter is written to the Boston bookseller W. H. Piper requesting payment of \$ 58.50 for her husband's publication "Archives of Aboriginal Knowledge." She mentions in the letter that it most important at this time because all debts held by Southern customers where not being paid and they were having difficulty making ends meet. She calls Washington "this most extortionate City."

Schoolcraft was instrumental in managing her husband's publications and helping with research after Henry was stricken with a paralysis. In 1860 she was the author of the novel, *The Black Gauntlet, a Tale of Plantation Life in South Carolina*. It was based on her experience as a young girl growing up in South Carolina and reflected Southern sensibilities and propagated the idea of happy slaves living on local plantations. Schoolcraft's novel became a counterpoint to H. B. Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

*Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, V. pp. 426. (639)

- A & M COLLEGE FOR THE COLORED RACE -  
FIRST HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE IN NORTH CAROLINA



14. Sutton, Thomas. *Typed Letter Signed from Thomas Sutton to Col. S. McD. Tate of Morganton, N.C.* March 24, 1892. \$ 150.00  
4to. 260 x 215 mm. [8 ½ x 11 inches]. Type written, 1 page, 22 lines. Signed by Thomas Sutton with red stamp, additional red stamp reading "Dictated to Phonography/ T.H.S. With original '2 cent' envelope addressed to Col. Tate.

Established by the State of North Carolina in 1891 as part of the provision of the Morrill Act, A & M College for the Colored Race, now called North Carolina A & T State University. A & M College was the first Historic Black College in North Carolina and today is the largest by enrollment of all HBCU's.

After being established by law the state government was looking for a city where the institution would be established. This letter written by Mr. Sutton, a developer for the Winston-Salem Land and Investment Company, to Col. Samuel McDowell Tate requests

his help in bringing the A & M College to Winston. Sutton explains that Greensboro, the chosen site for the College was dithering about the cost associated with the project and request the Tate put his support behind the drive to secure the College for the city of Winston.

Earlier in 1891, Tate had been instrumental in securing the establishment of the North Carolina School for the Deaf to his home town of Morganton and his influence as a member of the Board of Trustees of A & M College would be very helpful in securing the rights to Winston. In the end Greensboro got it finances together and the College was established there.

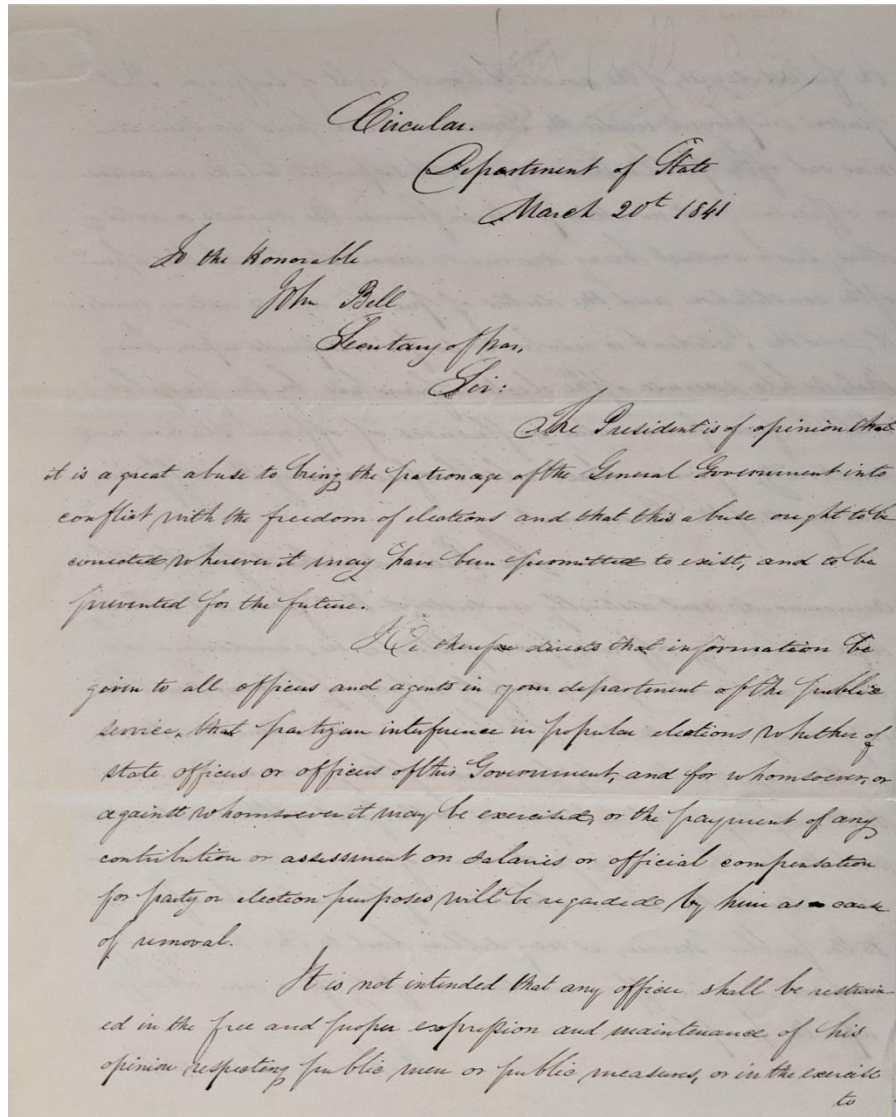
Col. Tate was one of the most influential men of his time in North Carolina. He led the 6<sup>th</sup> NC CSA Regiment ('The Bloody Sixth') during the Civil War. Post-war he served as President of the Western North Carolina Railroad, NC State Treasurer, a Representative to the General Assembly, and Mayor of Morganton. He died in 1896. (641)



REGULATING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR PARTISAN PARTICIPATION  
IN POPULAR ELECTIONS: PRECURSOR TO THE HATCH ACT

15. Webster, Daniel. *Circular. Department of State. March 21, 1841. "To the Honorable John Bell, Secretary of War."* Washington, D.C. March 20, 1841. \$ 1,500.00

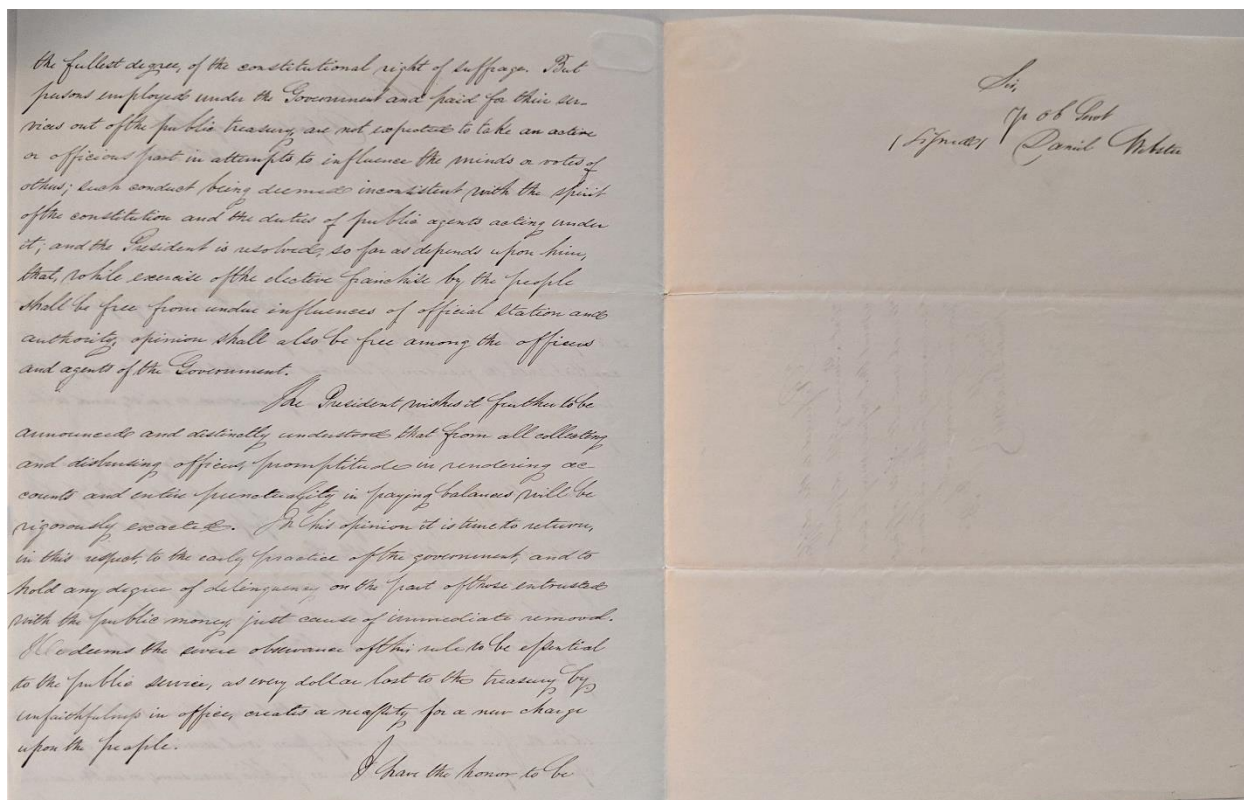
4to. 253 x 203 mm., [10 x 8 inches]. 2 pp. folded sheet. Watermarked. Docketed. Fine legible hand. Contemporary copy.



On March 20, 1841, during the administration of President William H. Harrison, the following circular designed to limit political activity of public servants was issued by the Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State:

"The President is of opinion that it is a great abuse to bring the patronage of the General

Government into conflict with the freedom of elections, and that this abuse ought to be corrected wherever it may have been permitted to exist and to be prevented for the future. "He therefore directs that information be given to all officers and agents in your Department of the public service that partisan interference in popular elections, whether of State officers or officers of this Government, and for whomsoever or against whomsoever it may be exercised, or the payment of any contribution or assessment on salaries, or official compensation for party-election purposes will be regarded by him as cause of removal.



"It is not intended that any officer shall be restrained in the free and proper expression and maintenance of his opinions respecting public men or public measures or in the exercise to the fullest degree of the constitutional right of suffrage. But persons employed under the Government and paid for their services out of the Public Treasury are not expected to take an active or officious part in attempts to influence the minds or votes of others, such conduct being deemed inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution and the duties of public agents acting under it; and the President is resolved, so far as depends upon him, that while the exercise of the elective franchise by the people shall be free from undue influence of official station and authority opinion shall also be free among the officers and agents of the Government...."

John Bell (1796–1869) to whom this circular was addressed, was one of Tennessee's most prominent antebellum politicians. He served in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and was Speaker of the House for the 23rd Congress. He briefly served as Secretary of War during the administration of William Henry Harrison (1841).

Docketed on p. 4 in ink by Bell ("J.B.") indicating this was referred to the different bureaus of the

War Department (dated in ink at the War Dept., promptly, on March 23rd). There were many later challenges and revisions to the law in the circular. The Hatch Act of 1939, officially An Act to Prevent Pernicious Political Activities, prohibited employees in the executive branch of the federal government, except the president, vice-president, and certain designated high-level officials of that branch, from engaging in some forms of political activity. The law was named for Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico. (643)

LETTER WRITTEN FROM THE WORCESTER JAIL – CONDEMNING THE THOSE WHO  
“MANUFACTURE LIQUID FIRE “

Worcester Jail, 22d Augt. 1842.  
Samuel Ward Esq.  
My Dear Sir.

I have this moment recd a very kind sympathizing letter from our mutual friend Hon<sup>ble</sup> Henri Stettinque, saying he had written by the same conveyance to Mr. Ward (by which I presume he means you - of the House of Messrs. Prime Ward & King) requesting you to come to an understanding by compromise with the Rum Distillers in Boston for my release from this Prison.

While I duly appreciate this well intended movement on the part of my good friend Mr. H. St. and feel grateful for this new manifestation of his friendship towards me, yet I have to request, as a particular favor, that you will not take a single step in my behalf or for my release.

With all the Christian charity possible, I have reason to believe, that the Rum Distillers (who, at the instigation of their Lawyer Richard H. Dana junior, did not hesitate to ~~place~~ <sup>perjure</sup> themselves in order to place me here) have been actuated by other motives than that of a mere pecuniary consideration, and as my death from a spirit of revenge or persecution on their part, will only add one more victim to the thousands which these men have already made by their infernal manufacture of liquid fire, and as such a termination of my Temperance efforts,

16. Wilder, Sampson V. S. Unsigned Autograph Letter, to Samuel [Cutler] Ward, Written from Worcester Jail, 22d Aug[us]t, 1842. \$ 400.00



4to. 250 x 200 mm., [10 x 8 inches]. 2 pp., plus integral blank leaf. A vertical fold, else about fine. Probably a retained copy (or never sent).

Interesting letter that pits the Sampson Wilder, the founder of the American Tract Society against the Rum Distiller's group of Massachusetts, a powerful political and economic force, called by Wilder those "infernal manufacture of liquid fire." In a twist perhaps uncommon in the annals of prison literature, Wilder would prefer to remain in jail rather than be sprung by influence, as he has refused to pay debts on principle, hoping to insure all his creditors be treated equally and that his assets not be consumed only by the liquor interest.

The letter does not describe how the debts were accrued, only that the author instructs Mr. Ward, to whom the letter was written, not use his influence on his behalf to get him out of jail. He says that his accusers, the Rum Distillers and their young lawyer Richard H. Dana Jr., noted author and later abolitionist,

"have been actuated by other motives than that of a mere pecuniary consideration and as my death from a spirit of revenge or persecution on their part will only add one more victim to the thousands which these men have already made by their infernal manufacture of liquid fire, and as such the termination of my temperance efforts, will probably lead to the abolition of the existing Goths and Vandal Law of this State which imprisons any honest debtor with common felons, I yield myself a willing sacrifice for the accomplishment of such a desirable and human effort, if it be the Will of Divine Providence, thus to terminate my earthly existence."

Some of the language here is quoted verbatim in extracts from Wilder's letters that appear in his biography, *Records From the Life of S.V.S. Wilder* (N.Y.: American Tract Society, 1865); see especially pages 316 through 328. Freedom came before long in the way for which Mr. Wilder had waited, and the only one that to him was satisfactory. At the request of his rum-dealing creditors, he was released "His incarcerators made many apologies, saying they had labored under wrong impressions. Mr. Wilder freely forgave them, as well as the young lawyer, whom he termed "inexperienced"[!], who had recommended to his clients their unjustifiable proceedings."

Wilder is best known as the President of the American Tract Society from 1823 to 1842. Samuel Cutler Ward (1814-1884) was also a notable figure. Scion of a prominent banking family, he left the family business and subsequently squandered his enormous wealth. He later achieved fame as the most influential lobbyist in Washington. Have secured a second fortune, he proceeded also to lose that through speculation.

*Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, VI, p. 507, and for Samuel Ward, p. 354. (645)