

import, the penman of a century ago often distributed dashes in liberal measure across his page, in a fashion which finds no precise equivalent in modern typography. We have made no pretense of reproducing these except in cases where their representation has some discoverable significance; and where the penman's dash has seemed to signify the equivalent of the comma or period as employed in modern printing, we have reproduced it as such. So too with words underscored in the manuscripts. The equivalent in print of this usage is the employment of italics, and all publishing houses have established rules governing the resort to such usage. But the underscoring of the penman, like his employment of dashes, commonly possesses no discoverable significance, and when such significance has seemed lacking we have not transferred the underscoring into print.

In the matter of footnote annotation some explanation of the editorial policy seems also in order. Few American cities can vie with Detroit in the fullness of the records available for the reconstruction of their remoter past. The fact that Detroit has done comparatively little, as yet, in the way of printing and utilizing these records, but serves to render the opportunity for their present and future exploitation the greater. In initiating the *Burton Historical Records*, therefore, it seems desirable to provide, where possible, somewhat full biographical information concerning the individuals who figure in the documents, and this the Editor has undertaken to do. Probably few readers will ever realize how greatly this conception of the editorial task has served to increase its arduousness. A footnote which may be read in the fraction of a minute may have cost (and frequently has) many hours of toil to prepare. Frequently, too, with the acquirement of additional pertinent information, it has been revised again and again before reaching the form it finally assumes in print. Since the Editor is not omniscient, but must rely upon such sources of information as are open to him, it is not to be expected that these biographical sketches are free from error, or that they are insusceptible to future elaboration. For both the reasons here suggested, care has been