

ton, Ross, Smith, Taylor, Wilson, Read, Rodney, Stone, Braxton, Nelson, Penn, Lynch, and Middleton. These deficiencies having been made known by the publication of Dr. Gilman's paper, "A Week Among Autographs," attracted the notice of persons who furnished him with these *desiderata*—President Sparks alone sending him three letters. Whether the fortunate discovery of the Lynch signatures by Dr. Gilman, in 1845, served to complete Mr. Tefft's first set, we are not informed; but when Dr. Gilman published his *Contributions to Literature* in 1856, in which his autograph essay is reproduced, he states, that since its original publication, and in consequence of its appearance, Mr. Tefft had completed his collection. Mr. Cist, in the *Historical Magazine* for August, 1859, says "it was perfected many years ago." Mr. Tefft's indomitable perseverance—with a supply of the Lynch signature to bank on—enabled him, in a few years, and prior to the out-break of our civil war, to form nearly a second set, lacking only Paine, Sherman and Stone.

Up to 1845, no collection of the signers was complete, save only Dr. Sprague's and Dr. Raffles'. In April and May of that year, Dr. Gilman obtained for Mr. Tefft several signatures of Thomas Lynch, Jr., cut from a volume of Latin translations made by him while at college, preserved by his nieces, the Misses Bowman, of Charleston, and from fly-leaves of printed books formerly belonging to Mr. Lynch, which had been presented by Mr. Bowman, who had married a sister of the signer, to the Apprentices' Library of that city; and these precious signatures were presented by Dr. Gilman to Mr. Tefft, at whose solicitation he had procured them. Mr. Tefft at once shared his rich acquisition with Mr. Gilmor, Mr. Cist, and others, thus enabling them to complete their collections; and with Dr. Sprague for his additional sets. Hon. Mellen Chamberlain writes: "I was at Dr. Sprague's house in Albany, I think in 1848, and he then had two complete sets of the signers—one of which he designed for his son." The discovery of the Lynch signatures has had the happy effect of completing no less than nineteen collections of the signers, while at least one