

wrote to Mr. Brotherhead, June 21, 1875: "In his last letter to me, Gen. Ponsonby, Her Majesty's private secretary, says: 'When Mr. Brotherhead sent a volume through the foreign secretary in 1861, he said: 'Your Majesty already possesses nearly a complete set of the original autographs of the signers.' I can *find no trace* of this set of autographs, nor can I ascertain that the queen possessed any of their autographs;" and in a letter a month later, to Mr. Brotherhead, Gen. Ponsonby further says: "The librarian assures me, that no such collection is in the library, and his further search has confirmed him in his opinion, that the queen never did possess these autographs. He also inquired at the British Museum, but no trace of any such collection can be found." Dr. Emmet writes: "Queen Victoria has no set; for I tried to see it at Windsor, and was told positively that she never had one." This should be regarded as conclusive.

In enumerating the collections of the signers extant, Mr. Burns, in the August number, 1870, of his *Antiquarian*, referred to the queen's supposed set, adding: "Of this, we know nothing further than its existence. Can any one tell us whether it is an original collection, or that of the Rev. Dr. Raffles?" As it was well-known, that the queen had secured no set of the signers in this country, it was very naturally surmised, that she had obtained Dr. Raffles' collection; but it transpires that the doctor's set has never passed out of the possession of his family.

During our Civil War, a complete collection of the signers, gathered by the late Prof. Robert W. Gibbes, of Columbia, S. C., was destroyed at the burning of that city—of its composition, we have no knowledge; of course, to have been complete, it must have included a Lynch signature. During the past seventeen years, three full sets have been dispersed—Mr. Mickley's, one of Dr. Sprague's and Mr. Cist's, while nine have been completed, namely: Mr. Gratz's, Dr. Fogg's, Wisconsin Historical Society's, three additional ones by Dr. Emmet, two by Col. Jones, of Georgia, and J. M. Hale's.

It is doubtful if more than a single other set, in addition to the present number of the signers, is ever com-