

sole reliance must, therefore, be on such description as you and his friend, Col. Meade, of Kentucky, can furnish me." As Col. Trumbull seems to have been faithful, painstaking, and conscientious, it is but fair to conclude, that he painted the Harrison portrait from the suggestions of Gen. Harrison and Col. Meade, and that his drawing was submitted to them, and met their approval. Mr. Brotherhead very pertinently asks: "Is it not better that we should have a portrait of Harrison under these conditions than have none at all?" We may fairly infer, as we hear of no similar cases, that Col. Trumbull met with no other obstacles in the procurement of the forty-eight portraits introduced into his great picture. The fullest confidence may be reposed in the integrity of Trumbull, and the genuineness of his portraits.

Of the other thirteen whose heads do not appear in the Declaration painting, eight had passed away before Col. Trumbull commenced securing likenesses for this purpose—Gwinnett, Morton, Ross, Hart, Taylor, Rodney, Stone, and Penn. Hall survived till 1790; Francis Lightfoot Lee, and Braxton, till 1797; Thornton till 1803, and Smith till 1806. Why these five survivors were not visited by him, and painted, is a matter of surprise and regret.

It was not till early in 1817, that Col. Trumbull received from Congress a commission to paint this, and three other historical pictures, for the rotunda of the capitol. The painting of the signers was first completed in October, 1818, when it was placed on public exhibition. Durand was employed in 1820 to engrave it; but it was not published till 1822, and is the original of the millions of copies of all sizes which have since been in circulation.

In 1849, William Hunt prepared the *Biographical Panorama*, printed by Joel Munsell, Albany, and illustrated with woodcuts, in which, among others, were included the thirteen deficiencies of Trumbull's picture. In 1870, Mr. Burns commenced the publication of portraits of twenty-two of the signers, from drawings in the collection of Dr. Emmet. They were copied and engraved or etched by H. B. Hall, and more especially designed for purposes of illustration. The