

Hart, Morton, Heyward, Middleton, and Gwinnett—the chances are, however, too faint to warrant an expectation; and of the other, the Lynch signature, which is a good one, there is not the least prospect whatever of improving it. Another motive for delay in binding the collection, is to add somewhat to the number of engravings for appropriate illustrations.

When ultimately bound, they might possibly be compressed into three volumes; one for each of the old divisions of the Union—the Eastern, Middle, and Southern States. But it is much more probable, that the accumulation of illustrative matter, views and engravings, will render it advisable to extend the number of volumes to perhaps eight—viz.: New Hampshire and Massachusetts, with their illustrations, eight signers; Rhode Island and Connecticut, six; New York and New Jersey, nine; Pennsylvania, nine; Delaware and Maryland, seven; Virginia, seven; North and South Carolina and Georgia, ten. The eighth volume to be composed of facsimiles of the declaration, a printed broadside of the declaration, published by order of the general assembly of Rhode Island, July 12, 1776, a copy of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of July 10, 1776, containing the declaration; together with autographs of Charles Thomson, the secretary of Congress, and of those members, who voted on the question, but were not present when the engrossed copy of the declaration was subsequently signed.

Such an arrangement of the autograph letters and documents, with appropriate illustrations, and letterpress of Sander-son's *Biography of the Signers*, with perhaps selections from Brotherhead's *Book of the Signers*, all inlaid, and properly bound, would present a noble record of the FATHERS of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

A brief catalogue of our Society's set of these almost priceless letters and documents cannot prove otherwise than interesting—noting their dates, number of pages, general condition, and, in some instances, the matter to which they relate.

An explanation seems proper of the abbreviations used in describing different kinds of autographs, with their relative