

rank or value. In making a collection of autographs, all seek to obtain, if possible, A. L. S.—*autograph letters signed*—as the best and highest class of specimens. Some regard L. S.—*letters signed*, the body written by a clerk—as next in rank of desirableness; but it would seem that A. D. S.—*autograph documents signed*, entirely in the handwriting of the signer—should be preferred. D. S.—*documents signed*, whether printed, or written by another; and cut signatures are the least desirable autographs; yet they often serve to complete sets when nothing better can be obtained. Collectors constantly endeavor to improve all these classes by better specimens, in date, size, subject matter, or condition.

#### New Hampshire Delegation

1. JOSIAH BARTLETT, A. L. S.—*autograph letter signed*—December 6, 1794, one page, in good condition.

2. WILLIAM WHIPPLE, A. L. S., September 7, 1779, two pages, in good condition, addressed to his associate signer, Mr. Bartlett, congratulating his friend on “the late happy event between England and Spain”—i. e., their getting by the ears, by which the struggling young Republic hoped to profit.

3. MATTHEW THORNTON, A. L. S., October 9, 1775, one page, in good condition.

#### Massachusetts Delegation

4. JOHN HANCOCK, A. L. S., September 9, 1780, one page, in good condition.

5. SAMUEL ADAMS, A. L. S., March 14th, 1768, addressed to the people of Boston, which, says that experienced and competent judge of autographs, C. De F. Burns, “is really the most satisfactory specimen of the name I have ever had.” It covers two pages, dated, signed, and in the handwriting of Mr. Adams—a beautiful sample of chirography, finely preserved. It conveys facts of interest concerning the poverty of the Bostonians, and its causes, a few years anterior to the Revolution, viz.: