

36. CHARLES PINCKNEY, A. L. S., no date (but written in 1807), three pages, in good condition.

37. PIERCE BUTLER, A. L. S., January 15, 1808, two pages, in good condition.

Georgia Delegation

38. WILLIAM FEW, A. L. S., January 9, 1790, one page, in good condition.

39. ABRAHAM BALDWIN, A. L. S., January 26, 1791, one page, in good condition.

Also an A. L. S. of Col. WILLIAM JACKSON, November 2, 1797, the secretary of the convention, who attested the constitution, one page, in good condition.

This enumeration of the sets of the signers of the declaration and of the constitution, possessed by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, presents a fine array of autographs in their line of collection, exceeded in only a few instances in the declaration series; while the signers of the constitution are represented by full autograph letters in every instance, and four were written in the year the constitution was formed, 1787.

A subject so interesting warrants a reference to similar collections extant, so far as the best attainable information, derived from the principal autograph collectors of the country, will enable us to describe them. The known full sets of the signers of the declaration are only twenty-two; and from the rarity of several of the autographs, the number can never be very much increased.

In noticing these several collections, it is necessary to establish some rules of precedence. On the whole, it would appear most proper to fix upon the number of full autograph letters in a collection; though their character and condition—whether pretty uniformly in folio or quarto size—and the extent of their illustrations, should have their influence in determining their relative standing. A few collectors have made an interesting consideration of enhanced interest and value, of letters bearing date in the declaration year, 1776.

In view of the almost insurmountable difficulties in mak-