

ing a complete collection of the signers of the declaration, it is not a little singular that more sets of the signers of the constitution have not been brought together. The declaration signers number fifty-six—those of the constitution only thirty-nine; so there are only about two-thirds as many of the latter as of the former, and none of them so practically unobtainable as are several of the signers of the declaration. While the statistics show twenty-two sets of the declaration signers, but sixteen full sets of the constitution signers are known to exist.

Other Collections of Declaration Signers

I.—Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, New York. His best set—for he has three—takes precedence by common consent. It includes fifty-four full autograph letters of the fifty-six signers, the only exceptions being Morton, an autograph document signed, and Gwinnett, a very fine specimen of a document signed. This is the only set in existence which has a genuine full letter of Thomas Lynch, Jr. It was addressed to Washington, and obtained by Dr. Emmet from Dr. Sprague, in a partial exchange, practically costing Dr. Emmet some seven hundred dollars. Twenty letters of this collection were written in 1776, and a number of them refer to the great declaration; of these, Clark's is dated July 14th, in that year, F. L. Lee's, July 16th, Wilson's, July 25th, and Hewes, July 28th, and an important A. D. S. of Hancock, July 11th. But the acknowledged excellence of this set is greatly enhanced by the elaborate extent of its illustrations. Dr. Emmet's patience and success in bringing together his illustrative matter is not merely remarkable, but is truly wonderful—greatly excelling any effort of the kind ever attempted.

Taking the historical matter of Sanderson's *Lives of the Signers*, and the whole of Brotherhead's *Book of the Signers*, as the basis, all inlaid to folio size, Dr. Emmet has extended the work to twenty volumes. The illustrations are almost innumerable, including twelve hundred autographs, many valuable historical documents, old newspapers, original water-color portraits of the signers, together with a large