

number of portraits of the Revolutionary period, many of which are now almost extinct, of persons mentioned in the papers or text, rare contemporaneous views of places, coats of arms of states, and many other appropriate illustrations, all inlaid by Trent on Whatman's drawing paper, of a uniform royal folio size. When completed, says Mr. Burns, "it will be the grandest monument ever erected to the memory of the signers by private hands; and on it, no expense has been spared, and the print collections of both continents laid under heavy contributions."

Among the unique illustrations of this noble set of the signers are two early printed broadsides of the declaration. One must have been issued as early as July 5, 1776, as John Adams on that day enclosed a copy to a lady correspondent, the letter to whom, now in Mr. Dreer's collection, is copied into Dr. Gilman's paper on the Tefft autographs. But the second one, which was sent out by order of Congress, January 18, 1777, to each of the States for a public record, also in printed form, is properly attested by their own signs-manual, by Secretary Thomson and President Hancock. Both of these broadsides are about fifteen by eighteen inches in size.

To give some idea of the cost of such indulgences: "In one way or another," writes Dr. Emmet, "I have spent some twenty-five thousand dollars on the set, and have not yet gotten it to my satisfaction." All will agree, that the right man undertook this herculean labor, and has never faltered for a moment in its prosecution.

While Dr. Emmet's best set of the signers has been scattered through these twenty volumes of illustrations, he begins to fear that they will be measurably lost in such a distribution, and is considering whether he may not supply this work with a less valuable fourth set, which yet lacks two specimens for its completion; and then put the best set in a special volume, with portrait engravings, short printed sketches, and facsimiles of autographs, etc.

But Dr. Emmet's three sets of the signers of the declaration of independence, and a fourth, but recently completed,