

ated, settled in New York city in 1804, where in the ensuing twenty-three years he rose to great eminence at the bar.

While Dr. Emmet has long been ranked among the ablest members of the medical profession in New York city, it is especially as an autograph collector that he stands pre-eminent. He began to form his first set of the signers about 1860, since which he has prosecuted the collection of American autographs with unusual ardor and remarkable success.

During the past twenty-five years, probably more autographs of the signers have passed through his hands than those of any one else in the country; and while he has been able to improve his own collections, he has supplied other collectors with more than a single specimen of all the signers, save perhaps those of Lynch and Gwinnett. He has thus proved himself a public benefactor—well worthy of the high honor Mr. Burns designed to ascribe, when referring to him as "*the Premier American Autographer*."

**II.—Simon Gratz, of Philadelphia.** In 1856, at the age of seventeen, an accidental search among an accumulation of family papers in his native city of Philadelphia, gave Mr. Gratz a taste for gathering autographs, which he has prosecuted for thirty years with rare discrimination and success. Mr. Burns, in the *Antiquarian*, August, 1870, stated that the collection of Mr. Gratz of the signers then lacked but two autographs, and that it was then regarded as "a fine series." That gap has long since been filled, and the whole set greatly improved. It has now fifty-three full autograph letters in quarto or folio size—the other three are Morton, a folio autograph document signed; Gwinnett, a very fine folio autograph document signed, and Lynch, a cut signature. It excels Dr. Emmet's best set—in the number of 1776 letters, having twenty-seven—one of which, that of Wilson, was written on the memorable 4th of July in that year; and a Hancock letter of July 5th, 1776, covering a copy of the declaration to one of the States.

All the specimens are choice both as regards matter and condition. It is largely illustrated with portraits and views, as yet kept loose in scrap-books for possible further improve-