

ment. No pains or expense has been spared to improve its character.

Mr. Gratz needs only a Lynch to complete a second set, which is used in his series of the old Congress of 1774-1789. This group of the old Congress lacks but a few names of being complete. A duplicate of Lynch he once possessed, but spared it to a fellow collector to round out his set. This collection of the old Congress, includes, of course, the members of the Congress of 1774, and the signers of the confederation of 1778.

Mr. Gratz, besides a set of the signers of the constitution, has a complete series of autographs of the generals of the Revolution—all A. L. S., save two, one of which is an A. D. S., and the other a letter signed. He has also a general collection of autographs, which covers a very wide field, embracing fully 25,000 specimens, American and foreign, ancient and modern.

III.—Ferdinand J. Dreer, of Philadelphia. Born in that city, March 2, 1812. Mr. Dreer was for many years laboriously engaged as an assayer and manufacturer of gold ware, retiring from active business in 1862. At twenty-two he broke down from over-work, and has ever since been in feeble health; yet since he commenced his autograph gatherings, about 1849, he has found pleasant employment in collecting, repairing and arranging his thousands of rare letters of both hemispheres, and illustrating his books and manuscripts, giving occupation to both body and mind, and as he believes, prolonging his days.

Mr. Dreer's set of the signers, like the collection of Mr. Gratz, numbers fifty-three full autograph letters. It has been selected and improved with great care and expense. The three specimens of the set not A. L. S., are Morton, A. D. S., Gwinnett, D. S., and Lynch, a cut signature. Next to the set of Mr. Gratz, Mr. Dreer's is the strongest extant in 1776 letters, having twenty-one specimens; no less than seven of which were written during the month of July of that year—Rutledge on the 1st, Clark on the immortal 4th, John Adams on the 5th, Hancock on the 9th, and 24th, Hewes on the 24th, and Thornton on the 27th. The Adams