

cut signature. The autograph document of Hancock, a very important historical one, bears date July 11, 1776; while the letter of Hewes is dated April 30th, in that year, and eighteen other full letters were written during the Revolutionary period. This set of the signers forms a part of Dr. Emmet's fine series of members of the old Congress, 1774-1789.

XIV.—Joseph W. Drexel, of New York. This is the second set formed by Mr. Tefft, and was purchased, in 1865, by Almond W. Griswold, of New York, from Mr. Tefft's widow, and subsequently passed into Mr. Drexel's possession. It lacked Paine, Smith, and Stone of completion, which Mr. Drexel has since supplied, as well as otherwise improved the collection. Forty are A. L. S.; while Hart, Harrison, Wythe, and Middleton are A. D. S.; Hancock and Jefferson, L. S.; Thornton, Paine, Hopkins, Morton, Taylor, Ross, Stone, Heyward, and Walton, D. S., and Lynch, a cut signature. The gem of the collection is a full letter of Gwinnett, written in 1777, the only one known to be extant—purchased at the Mickley sale at a cost of \$110. Five are 1776 letters—Wolcott, Livingston, Clark, R. Morris, and Wilson, the latter dated June 26th, and relates to a debate in Congress on independence. The collection is yet unbound, and is illustrated with engravings and etchings of the signers, views, etc., with a sketch each of printed biographies.

Mr. Drexel has also a set of the signers of the constitution, and a collection of over thirty Washington letters, including a plan of his Mount Vernon estate drawn by himself.

XV.—Edward E. Sprague, of New York. This set of the signers was one of the three made by his father, Rev. Dr. Sprague, and was completed, as Hon. Mellen Chamberlain believes, as early as 1848. It consists of forty A. L. S.; while Hart, Smith, Taylor, Stone, Middleton, and Walton are A. D. S.; Stephen Hopkins, L. S.; and Samuel Adams, Livingston, Morton, Paca, F. L. Lee, Wythe, Heyward, Lynch and Gwinnett are D. S., The Lynch signature is attached to a conveyance of land in 1779, in Charleston—a counterpart to Mr. Myer's Lynch deed of March in that