

graphs, without the necessity of purchasing many of them, as at that early day they had not, to any extent, become a marketable commodity. She substantially completed her collections before 1850—her full set of the signers somewhat earlier. She has the honor of having been the only lady who has succeeded in forming a complete collection of the signers—Mrs. Wm. Hathaway, of New Bedford, Mass., having gathered a partial set.

It consists of thirty-seven A. L. S.; with Thornton, Floyd, Lewis, Stockton, Witherspoon, Morton, Taylor, Smith, McKean, Chase, Wythe, Middleton, Gwinnett, and Walton, A. D. S.; Livingston and Clymer, L. S.; and signatures only of Hart, to a continental bill, F. L. Lee, and Lynch. Three of the full letters bear date in 1776—Wolcott, February 10th, Hancock, July 6th, and Gerry, October 4th, while eleven others were written during the Revolutionary War. They are bound in a volume with thirty-five engraved likenesses. The Hancock and Heyward letters, and A. D. S. of Gwinnett form the special features of interest in the collection. Mrs. Allen also partially formed a second set of the signers; and passing away August 30, 1873, her autograph collections were inherited by her daughter, Mrs. Ely.

XVIII.—Hon. T. Stamford Raffles, Liverpool, England.

This collection was made by his father, the late Rev. Thomas Raffles, D. D., LL. D., of that city, who was a much older man than any of our American collectors, having been born in London, May 17, 1778. He used to say, that the gift of a letter of the celebrated traveler, Mungo Park, first "inoculated" him with a passion for autographs. This was sometime prior to 1814, when we find him securing valuable additions to his collection. Making journeys in Great Britain and on the continent, he never returned without adding to his autograph accumulations. He received his first visit in 1828, from Rev. Dr. W. B. Sprague, with whom he had previously been in correspondence; and for many years they rendered each other much mutual aid in the exchange of autographs. While it is not now known, yet it is quite likely that Dr. Sprague inspired in Dr. Raffles the idea of making