

a collection of the signers. After many patient years of effort, Dr. Raffles completed his set in 1837.

This collection of the signers numbers thirty A. L. S.; Hart and Paca, A. D. S.; John Adams, Hopkins, Lewis, McKean, Hooper, and Walton, L. S.; Thornton, Hancock, Huntington, Livingston, Lewis Morris, Clymer, Morton, Ross, Smith, Taylor, Wilson, Jefferson, F. L. Lee, Wythe, Heyward, and Gwinnett, D. S.; with Hewes and Lynch, signatures. Among the rarities of the collection are the full letters of Samuel Adams, Sherman, Stockton, and Middleton, with a fine historical document of Hancock to Washington, October 11, 1776, directing him "by every art, and at whatever expense, to obstruct effectually the navigation of the North River, between Fort Washington and Mount Constitution." The special defects of the collection are, that while the Morton is a finely written holograph letter, June 20, 1765, addressed to Sir Wm. Johnson, and certified as such by Dr. Sprague, it is not signed; and the signature of George Taylor is imperfect, the Christian name having been torn off. Besides the Hancock document, the Stockton letter was written in 1776.

A writer, nearly thirty years ago, said of this collection: "Dr. Raffles has his set bound in a beautiful volume, and values it almost as he would the famous Kohinoor. A wealthy Boston merchant once introduced himself to him in the street, and requested the privilege of seeing his collection. He then told the doctor that he wished to make a present to his native city, and had seen nothing which so pleased him for that purpose as this set of autographs, and asked if there was any sum which would induce him to part with it? The Liverpool doctor, however, who is wealthy, and besides considers a first-rate autograph a luxury greater than a miser's gold heap, was not to be tempted."

Dr. Raffles wrote many works of merit, and prepared a lecture on his favorite autograph hobby. He purchased comparatively few of his large manuscript collections; he arranged and illustrated them, accumulating as many as