

place on a wet night when there were but few or no competitors; and after much improving, and completion prior to 1860, it was finally dispersed at auction, after Mr. Mickley's death, in Nov., 1878—many of the specimens bringing good prices for that day—Gwinnett, L. S., \$110; Lynch signature, \$95; Hall, A. L. S., \$60; Hewes, A. L. S., \$37.50; Hooper, A. L. S., \$32; Middleton, L. S., \$29; Penn, A. L. S., \$27.50; F. L. Lee, A. L. S., \$21; Heyward, D. S., \$15.

Lewis J. Cist, of Cincinnati, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1818, was an early collector, commencing in 1835, but did not complete his set of the signers until 1850, when he received a Lynch signature from Mr. Tefft. His collection seems to have been the fifth completed set—Sprague, Raffles, Tefft, and Gilmor preceding him in this honor. Mr. Cist, quite a poet and *littérateur*, spent his life mainly in the employ of banks and insurance companies. His death at Cincinnati, March 31, 1885, caused the dispersion, separately, of his large collection of autographs at auction.

The collections of Henry C. Baird, of Philadelphia, commenced in 1842, and described in the *Bizarre* magazine, April, 1853, included a goodly portion of the signers, which have been dispersed. Dr. C. G. Barney, of Richmond, Va., made a fine collection of the signers, containing many valuable historical letters, and lacking only Lynch and Gwinnett; but despairing of securing these, he sold his autographs separately to other collectors. Col. Brantz Mayer, of Baltimore, a literary man of much repute, made a collection of the signers, which lacked Taylor, Lynch, Middleton, Gwinnett, and Hall; he dying in February, 1879, his autographs were dispersed at auction in November following. The late Hon. Henry S. Randall, of Courtland, N. Y., also made a collection of the signers, which needed only Gwinnett of completion, which since his death, August 14, 1876, passed, with his other autograph groups, which he had been some thirty years gathering, into the hands of Mr. C. De F. Burns, and have been dispersed. Other collections—notably those of B. B. Thatcher, of Boston, Charles H. Morse, of Newburyport, Mass., Alfred B. Taylor, John G. Howard, and Edward Herrick, of Pennsylvania, John