

R. Thompson, of Richmond, Va., and Joseph B. Boyd, of Maysville, Ky., have been disposed of, and served to strengthen other sets of autographs.

The autographs of extreme rarity, of some of the signers, are steadily but surely enhancing in value. The Lynch signature, which, in 1845, had no pecuniary value, brought \$10 in 1867; \$95 in 1878; subsequently \$145; \$150 in 1881, and \$210 at the recent Cist sale. The Gwinnett, in document form, which brought \$110 in 1878, and the same in 1881, commanded \$185 at the Cist sale; and at this sale also a Lewis Morris letter brought \$85, while a Stockton letter netted \$50. Mr. Stauffer has refused \$300 for his full letter of John Morton, of which only one other is known to be in existence.

Still other autograph collectors have been in the field. Col. Peter Force, of Washington, gathered many manuscripts and documents, which since his death, have passed into the library of Congress. In the *Bizarre* magazine, Philadelphia, Oct. 29, 1853, quite a list of other known autograph collectors of that period, is given: James T. Fields, of Boston, chiefly of literary characters; J. B. Moreau, of New York; Capt. Furman Seymour, U. S. A., West Point; Dr. Theo. L. Cuyler, Trenton, N. J.; Dr. L. R. Koecker, E. D. Ingraham, Wm. Schott, Jos. H. Hedges, and Dr. S. A. Allibone, all of Philadelphia—the latter since of the Astor Library, New York; James C. McGuire, Washington, including many papers of Gen. Knox, of the Revolution, and President Madison; Henry T. Oates, Charleston, S. C.; Oscar F. Keeler, Columbus, Miss., and Wm. L. Mackenzie, Toronto. It is not probable that any of these collections embraced any considerable number of the signers, nor have we any definite information whether any of these autograph garnerings, save those of Colonel Force, are still preserved intact, or have been dispersed. Such manuscript collections as those of Jared Sparks, George Bancroft, Peter Force, Francis Parkman, and the writer of this essay, as well as those of the historical societies of our country, do not properly come within the scope of this paper, as they were gathered, not for any autographic display and