

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

"BOOK IN SHILLING NUMBERS"

DEALINGS with the Firm of *Dombey and Son, Wholesale, Retail, and for Exportation*, by Charles Dickens (the title was later shortened to *Dombey and Son*) was recently presented to the Library in the complete unbound parts almost exactly a century after Bradbury & Evans, the London publishers, had released the initial installment. The donor was Stanley R. March, a former Rutgers student.

This was the fifth of Dickens' novels to be published in "shilling numbers." Publication in parts, though it began in the eighteenth century, had in the early Victorian period developed into an effective method for reaching a wide reading public. At the time *Dombey and Son* appeared, most of the popular novelists were first printed in this way. But to discover these paper backed shilling numbers of a novel of the time, complete and in an excellent state of preservation, is now considerably more difficult than to find well preserved first editions of cloth bound books—a fact which increases the value of such an excellent example of an outstanding Victorian novel in its pristine state.

The reputation of Dickens was already established at this time. *Pickwick Papers, Oliver Twist, Nicholas*

Nickleby, A Christmas Carol, and other writings had gained him a huge international audience. The public now eagerly purchased the first issue of his current work. "The 'Dombey' sale is BRILLIANT!" the author wrote to John Forster. "I had put before me thirty thousand as the limit of the most extreme success, saying that if we should reach that, I should be more than satisfied and more than happy; you will judge how happy I am!" Readers avidly followed the story as it appeared in the monthly serials, and some went so far as to write to Dickens begging him to concentrate upon certain characters and even attempted to influence the evolution of the plot. And when young Paul Dombey died in the fifth installment, it "threw a whole nation into mourning."

This story of the humbling of Pride and the awakening of parental love has perhaps been more criticized than any other Dickens novel. It has been felt that it weakened tremendously after its opening chapters, that it failed to maintain the promise of its early pages. Whether this be true or not, *Dombey and Son* marked an important phase in the author's philosophy of authorship. From then on, Dickens ceased using characters and scenes in a haphazard fashion; from then on, everything in his novels pertained to the plot and to the explanation or development of a character.

A work is naturally judged as an entity. But it is perhaps also important—if only for historical reasons—to dwell upon the difficulties under which an author wrote. If this perspective does not measurably influence the final criticism, it may at least explain the reason for some of the inherent weaknesses in the novel. It must be remembered that when Dickens entered upon the contract with his publishers for a new novel, he had not set a word of it down. He wrote it against the monthly deadlines, an arbitrary number of words to be penned for each number. And it was written during a full life in Switzerland, France, and England.

Dombey and Son appeared in nineteen issues from October, 1846, to April, 1848, each one in identical green wrappers illustrated by H. K. Browne (who signed his sketches "Phiz"). Its sale showed an increase over *Martin Chuzzlewit* but less than *Nicholas Nickleby*. However, the handsome contract—his share was seventy-five per cent—permitted Dickens to forget his financial worries and to achieve some measure of prosperity. He netted 2,200 pounds for the first six months, plus an additional 100 pounds each month.

The final number, as was the custom, was a double issue which included the frontispiece, illustrated title-page, preface, and table of contents so that subscribers to the parts "desirous of having their copies bound in a similar style (i.e., like the one volume edition published in 1848)

[could] have them done by Messrs. Chapman & Hall . . . or through their Booksellers." The Library can now reverse the meaning of the above advertisement by offering the curious reader the opportunity to peruse *Dombey and Son* in its original form.

H. GILBERT KELLEY

A FRENEAU FRAGMENT

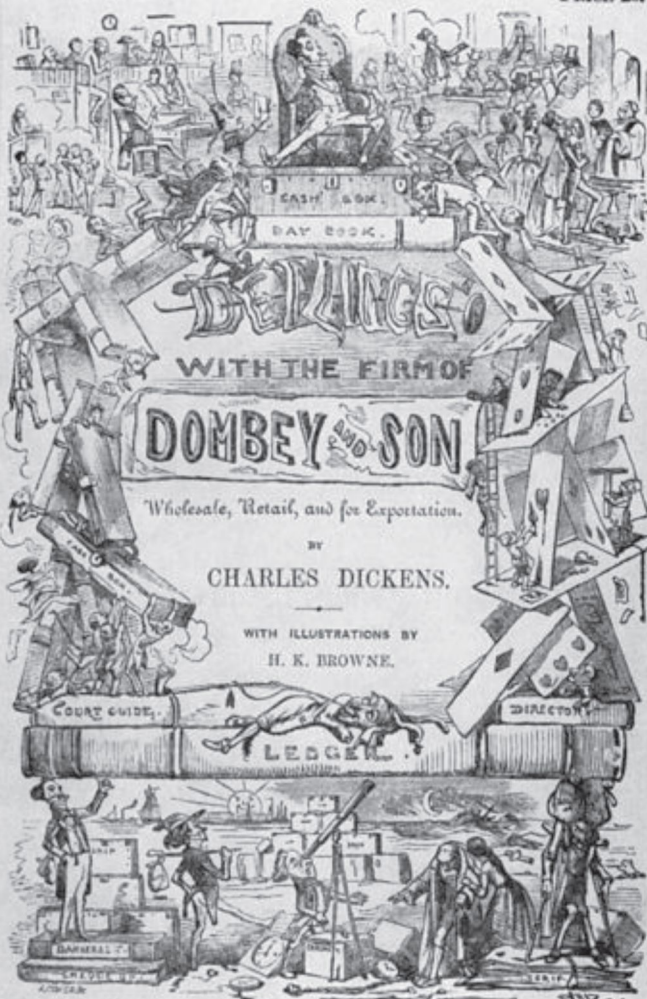
THE Library has recently acquired a fragment of a letter from Philip Freneau to Mathew Carey, the Philadelphia editor, publisher, bookseller, and economist. These men were business friends of long standing. In 1781-3 Freneau was a Philadelphia postal clerk and active contributor to Francis Bailey's *Freeman's Journal*. Bailey published his *Poems* (1786) and *Miscellaneous Works* (1788); and Freneau edited his *National Gazette* there, on what is now Market Street, not far from Carey's place of business.

Carey, a refugee from British persecution, arrived in Philadelphia in 1784, and soon, with the help of Lafayette, began his career as an American publisher with the *Pennsylvania Herald*. He presently became involved with Colonel Oswald, editor of the *Independent Gazetteer*—with whom Bailey and Freneau had engaged in a newspaper war—meeting Oswald in a duel that resulted in a wound to Carey. From 1787 to 1792, Carey published the *American Museum*, a brave attempt at an American monthly magazine. In it appeared many of

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APRIL.

PRICE 2s.



LONDON: BRADBURY & EVANS, WHITEFRIARS.

AGENTS—J. WENZEL, EDINBURGH; J. MACFARLANE, GLASGOW; J. M'GLASHAN, DUBLIN.

Freneau's poems, and essays from his *National Gazette*. Freneau's period of residence as editor, 1791 to 1793, probably resulted in a cordial business friendship. There are in existence at least three letters from the poet to the publisher which are dated at this time.¹

It is unlikely that this friendship—though cemented by a common love of books and republican principles—ever went beyond business relations. Freneau was a political radical, a college graduate with a broad classical and liberal education, and a Deist who scorned Catholicism. Carey was essentially devoted to the interests of business, a conservative Republican-Democrat, and in later life a protectionist. Moreover, he was a pious Catholic. Though an avid reader, he had never received more than a rudimentary formal education.

The present letter, judging from the fragment which remains, was an introduction of Major Forman, of the family into which Freneau had married in 1790—probably Samuel Forman, brother of Freneau's wife, who lived near Utica, New York. It expresses extravagant praise of Carey's *Olive Branch*, which Freneau had urged Forman to circulate near his home. This was Carey's attempt to justify the War of 1812 and to bring the Federalists and Democrats together. It was a publishing success, with eight editions within about a year of its first appearance in late 1814. Carey himself comments that its success had never been exceeded except

by Paine's *Common Sense*.² As four editions were sold in the first eight months, it may be presumed that about the middle of 1815 was the period of its greatest popularity. At this time, very likely, Freneau wrote his letter to Carey and gave it to Forman as an introduction.

The postscript in which Freneau sends his "best respects" to Mrs. Bailey, daughter-in-law of Francis Bailey, recalls the interesting story of her successful career as a publisher. She had taken over the printing business of her husband Robert, who died in 1808, leaving the business that Francis Bailey had transferred to him about 1797.

The fragment follows:
to introduce him to your acquaintance. His residence is at Cazenovia, near Utica, in the Northwestern quarter of the State of New York—Your *Olive Branch* has excited so much attention, wherever people will at all read, that I have urged Mr. Forman to take a dozen or two copies from you to circulate in his neighbourhood.—According to an old saying it is worth its weight in gold, and, since the publication of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, I know nothing that has issued from the American Press of equal solid utility—as there is in general a stupid apathy prevailing among the people, and a too sordid

¹ In the possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, in the Lea and Febiger Collection.

² Earl L. Bradsher, *Mathew Carey, Editor, Author, and Publisher* (New York, 1912), p. 62.

attachment to Mammon, and dirty interest, it is pity some society or combination of sensible men were not established, who would, by a fund for the purpose, circulate the "Olive Branch" through every Village, hamlet, and into every family in the United States—

Yours,
P. Freneau

When you see Mrs. Bailey
please give her my best respects—

Address

Mr. Mathew Carey
Philadelphia
No. 118 Market Street

By *Major Forman*—

PHILIP MARSH
California Institute of Technology

TWO RECENT GIFTS

AMONG recent gifts to the Library are two collections presented in memory of loyal friends. One of these men, Alexander Stuart Graham, "Sandy" as he was known to all the staff, served the Library for twenty-one years. The other, John P. Wall, a local merchant, was the historian of New Brunswick.

The Graham books, the larger of the two groups, may be divided into three parts, all of which are welcome additions to our holdings. Early in life Mr. Graham had started his collection of books on the drama and the careers of the actors and actresses of his generation. These books he aug-

mented with notes and clippings from newspapers and magazines, especially from those of the third quarter of the nineteenth century. With these additions his books became invaluable reference volumes for those interested in the American stage. A second interest of this avid reader, whose artistic knowledge and taste were noted, is preserved in the collection of books on engraving, etching, lithography, and painting, which is sure to prove of great use to all who may consult our shelves for material on these subjects. And a third, only begun in 1936 when Mr. Graham retired from active service at the age of seventy-nine, consists of American novels. Since he could no longer spend every Saturday afternoon at country auctions or in some second-hand bookstore or junk shop, he set up a shop "At the Sign of the Thistle." In connection with this enterprise he sought first editions of the American novelists, and many of these—Howells, Aldrich, and others—have come to the Library.

The second group of books, those belonging to Mr. Wall, form a particularly valuable addition to the Library's already large collection of New Jerseyana. These new materials consist mostly of clippings of local or semi-local history, extending from matters concerning New Brunswick to Rutgers and then to the State of New Jersey. Mr. Wall's collection of photographs of prominent men and interesting events and places is also included. Our gratification in having

Mr. Wall's interests thus preserved in the growing Library is enhanced by the fact that this ardent lover of all things having to do with Rutgers was adopted by the Class of 1906 as an honorary member of its group. It is appropriate, therefore, that so many of his books and papers should have come to the Rutgers University Library.

OLIVER K. WESTLING

FRENEAU REVISES

AN ISSUE of *The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser* published in Philadelphia May 3, 1790, recently acquired by this Library, contains an unsigned poem entitled "Stanzas, Occasioned by the Death of Dr. Franklin." Investigation has led to the discovery that this is a poem written by Philip Freneau, first published by him in *The Daily Advertiser*, New York City, April 28, 1790, during his editorship of that newspaper. The poem was first reprinted exactly as it appeared in the New York newspaper, in the issue of *The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser* cited above, five days after its original appearance.

A comparison of these "Stanzas" with the poem as printed in various editions of Freneau's published works (1795, 1809), reveals a number of alterations and revisions of interest.

As originally published in the newspapers the poem was composed of four stanzas of four lines each. The revised version, published in Freneau's *Poems*, bears a slightly altered title;

it consists of four stanzas, three of which are of four lines each, and one of six lines. Thus two whole lines were later added by Freneau. In each stanza an alteration of a single word or of an entire phrase occurs. The first stanza remained as in the original with the exception of the substitution of *hath* for *has* in line one. In the second stanza, line two was altered from *Will sink, 'tis true, by slow decays*, to, *To dust returns by slow decays*. The third stanza shows the greatest change, its first and second lines slightly altered, having become the third and fourth lines of the revised poem. The third stanza therefore contains lines added by Freneau between 1790 and 1795. Finally, lines three and four of verse three of the original poem became lines one and two of the last stanza of the revision, to which were added all the lines of the fourth stanza of the poem as first published. Thus the last stanza is one of six lines rather than four.

So far as we know, this variant of Freneau's poem has not been brought to light. It will have special value, according to Dr. Lewis Leary, author of *That Rascal Freneau* (1941), when someone edits a complete new edition of the poems of Freneau.

As written by Freneau and first published in the *New York Daily Advertiser* and in *The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser* the poem is reproduced here that it may be compared with its revised version as published in several volumes of Freneau's *Poems*.

STANZAS

Occasioned by the Death of Dr. Franklin

<p>THUS, some tall tree that long has stood The glory of its native wood, By storms destroy'd, or length of years Demands the tribute of our tears.</p> <p>The pile that took long time to raise Will sink, 'tis true, by slow decays; But when it's destin'd years are o'er, We must regret the loss the more.</p>	<p>So long befriended by your art, Philosopher, we must not part!— When Monarchs tumble to the ground Successors easily are found.</p> <p>But, matchless FRANKLIN, what a few Can hope to equal such as YOU, Who seiz'd from Kings their scepter'd pride, And turn'd the lightning's darts aside!</p>
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Virginia S. Burnett

THE ASSOCIATED FRIENDS

A special meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Associated Friends of the Library was called, April 15, 1947, to consider the purchase out of the funds of the Associated Friends of a long letter written, December 9, 1785, by Abraham Clark, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, to John Cleves Symmes and Josiah Hornblower.

Aside from its association with a Signer, this letter has peculiar interest to students of New Jersey history. In 1786 New Jersey refused to pay its quota of the Continental requisitions. The leader of the opposition to the payment of the requisition was Abraham Clark, one of the foremost political figures of the State and a delegate to the Annapolis Convention of 1786. In the letter Clark sets forth the reasons for his opposition. Symmes, at the time the letter was written a member of the Confederation Congress from New Jersey, had given loyal support to the American cause throughout the Revolution. Hornblower, who had been largely concerned during the War with the raising of funds, was also a member of Congress.

After some discussion, by which the Committee was fully satisfied as to the value of the letter, its purchase for the Library by the Associated Friends was approved.