

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

ANOTHER GIFT FROM DR. PALTSITS

In addition to his gift noted elsewhere in the present *Journal*, Dr. Victor H. Paltsits has recently presented to the Library two interesting groups of manuscript letters and documents. The thirteen items which comprise this lot, all written in the Dutch language, deal with personalities and circumstances closely associated with the Dutch origins of Queens College, now Rutgers University. Although it is hoped that Dr. Paltsits himself will describe the manuscripts later in more detail, a few notes regarding them are included in this place.

The first group consists of nine items (1751-1757) centering about the struggle of three neighboring Ulster County, New York, congregations¹ to provide themselves with a pastor. Their supply of ministers being at this time pitifully small, the Dutch churches in America (still subordinate to the Classis of Amsterdam) had neither facilities nor authority to educate and ordain their own clergy. The Ulster County congregations, after many years without a regular pastor, called Jacobus Frielinghuysen in 1751. Despite a few past exceptions, it was required that he be sent to the Netherlands for ordination. In these manuscripts the subsequent story is told, of delay and disappointment (Frielinghuysen died on the return voyage), followed by a

call to Henricus Frielinghuysen, brother of Jacobus—whereupon the whole question of ordination arose again. Distressed by many problems of this character, the American churches petitioned repeatedly for relief and finally assumed a certain degree of autonomy. Their demand for an American-educated clergy resulted directly, after continued agitation, in the establishment of Queen's College (chartered 1766, re-chartered 1770).

Among the early proponents and supporters of the College were not only members of the Frielinghuysen² family but also the Hardenberghs. Indeed, its first president was Rev. Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh (1736-1790) who, coincidentally, had married the widow of still another Frielinghuysen brother, Rev. Johannes (1727-1754).

The second group of manuscripts presented by Dr. Paltsits consists of four family letters (1760-1785) addressed to Colonel Johannes Hardenbergh of Rosendale, Ulster County, N.Y. One is from the Colonel's son, Jacob R. Hardenbergh, another from the latter's wife Dina (*née* van Bergh), and two from a son-in-law, Rev. Hermanus Meijer—all of which are names significant in Rutgers history. Dina van Bergh, wife of the first president, was also the mother by

¹ Marbletown, Rochester and Wawarsing.

² The name originally appeared in several spellings.

her previous marriage of General Frederick Frelinghuysen (1753-1804) and grandmother of Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen (1787-1862), both of whom were conspicuous in public life and in their services to Rutgers College. Hermanus Meijer (or Meyer), a prominent Reformed clergyman, received in 1789 one of the first honorary degrees granted by the College.

DONALD SINCLAIR

*AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER
OF WILLIAM THE SILENT*

In 1931, a document dated May 6, 1578, and signed Guillaume de Nassau was presented to the Library of Rutgers University by an alumnus, Avery L. Giles, '33, who found it in the papers of his deceased uncle, Henry Ross Kingsley. It is rather odd to find this sixteenth-century letter dealing with administrative matters in a manorial estate of Brabant in the possession of an American private citizen. The author of the letter is no other than William the Silent, whose statue stands on the Rutgers campus. Although the document has no great intrinsic value, it is of some interest to students of economic conditions in the seigniorial estates of the period, and particularly of the Barony of Breda in Brabant, since the letter is addressed by William to the officials of his barony and is concerned with the production and consumption of beer in the estate.

William, known as the Silent, Prince of Orange, Count of Nassau,

Baron of Breda, etc., one of the richest and most powerful lords of the seventeen provinces of the Netherlands, then under Spanish domination, played a major role in the revolt, both religious and political, which began against the Spanish king in the middle eighties of the sixteenth century and went on for many years. In 1578, the struggle had still mainly a religious character. William, an opportunist in religious matters, was a partisan of religious freedom and political autonomy for the Netherlands. He became more and more the champion of the revolt and was recognized by most Calvinists and many Catholics as their leader.

The year 1578 itself was one of the most crucial for William. We find him trying to stop divergencies and divisions between Catholics and Protestants and to reconcile them to a common ideal of tolerance with his admirable "Peace of Religion" which unfortunately was rejected by both sides. We find him also negotiating with Germany, France, and England for support in order to avert the attempts of his enemies to oppose to him a rival in authority. In order to escape his enemies in Brussels, he fled in February to Antwerp, where he wrote the following letter. Busy and harried as he was, he found time, as proven by this document, to take care of his estates and to see to their welfare.

Mr. DeBoer of the Holland Society in New York has kindly made a transcription and translation of the original.

Transcription:

Die Prince van Oraengien, Grave van Nassau &c Heereⁿ Baroen van Breda, van Diest &c.

Eersame, discrete, Lieve Getrouwe, Alsoo wy hoochnoodelycken bevinden tot welvaren [onsen Lande ende Baroenye van Breda ende]¹ onsen ondersaten aldaer, datmen by goede middelen alle de zelve Ondersaeten oft de meeste paert van dien Inducere tot be- lofte voor heur ende heure nacomelingen van gheen andere bieren te coopen, tappen, drincken oft slyten, *dan binnen Breda oft ter plaatsen van een yeder dorp des macht hebbende gebrouwen zynde*, Soe eest dat wy U mits desen daer toe authoriseren, om tot Rosendael, Etten, Sundert en allē anderen dorpen van den Lande van Breda alsulcke beloften te beneerstighen ende doen onderscryven, ende dat in alsulcken forme ēn by alsulcke ordre ende middele als by Ulieden inden Raede met goeden advyse bequaemst zal bevonden wordden, hier mede

Eersame, discrete, lieve getrouwe onse Heere God zy met Ulieden. Gescreven tot Antwerpen opten VI^{en} May 1578.

(Signed) Guillē de Nassau

Translation:

The Prince of Orange, Count of Nassau, etc., Lord and Baron of Breda, Diest, etc.

Honorable, discreet, Beloved and faithful ones, Whereas we find it highly necessary for the Welfare of [our Land and Barony of Breda and of] our subjects there that by fair means all the named Subjects, or the greater part of them, be induced to promise for themselves and their offspring to buy, to tap, to drink or to sell no other kinds of beer, *than those brewn within Breda or in the locality of each Township licensed thereunto*, We authorise You herewith to promote at Rosendael, Etten, Sundert and all other Towns of the Land of Breda, the giving and signing of such promises, in such form and manner, and by such means as by You in Council upon good advice shall be deemed most advisable.

herewith,

Honorable, discreet, beloved and faithful ones, the Lord God be with you. Written at Antwerp, the VIth of May, 1578.

(Signed) Guillē de Nassau

The document is undoubtedly genuine. The paper is that of the period. The signature is unmistakably that of William. And as for the text, carefully written by a secretary, its language, in wording and spelling, is the Dutch of the period with certain dialectical particularities which Mr. De-Boer attributes to a Brabander. William, himself of foreign origin, but educated in the Netherlands, spoke

¹ Words between brackets had been struck out in the original text.

French and Dutch fluently and had many Brabanders among his advisors and servants. As far as I have been able to determine, the letter has never been published. At any rate, it does not appear in the two printed collections of the letters of William the Silent.²

MADELEINE CHARANIS

ELIA

By obtaining a copy of the rare first editions of Charles Lamb's *Elia* and *Last Essays of Elia*, the Library has acquired a book which no library should ever be without. There are, of course, uncounted later editions; the dignified *Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* terms them "innumerable." But by each remove from the original the dilution becomes greater; only the first edition will do for those occasions when we want to see the book as Lamb saw it, and handle it as he and his readers handled it. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Gabriel Wells, in whose recent bequest these volumes are included, we now have this privilege.

Surprisingly enough, in view of the ease and charm of the style, Lamb came to write these delightful essays only after the most anguishing discipline and disappointment. For years he tried to make himself famous in other forms of literature. He wrote a good deal of poetry, most of which is unknown to all but industrious students—and rightly so. His plays, in view of his rapturous lifelong devotion

to the theater and the drama, are unbelievably bad; it is hard to imagine how a play could be so bad as *Mr. H. Rosamund Gray* will never be read as a novel from any other motive than curiosity. But like Bacon, though without Bacon's success in other fields, Lamb found by elimination that essays were the kind of writing that he could do supremely well; and having found his field, he cultivated it more successfully than any other writer.

The apparently unstudied outpourings of his genius were actually the result of severe revision. To read "Grace before Meat," one would feel sure that the author must have waited for a mood or moment of inspiration and then let fall these crystal sentences, these deft blends of wit, humor, affection, pathos, and ridicule, with the ease of that mythical Shakespeare who "never blotted a line." Perhaps no one would ever have known differently if some of Lamb's manuscripts were not still in existence; but their testimony is an eloquent rebuttal of this favorite illusion about the literary life. Perhaps it is to the advantage of this particular form of idolatry of Shakespeare that all his manuscripts have faded from sight.

For the original manuscript of "Grace before Meat," which now

² The two printed collections of the letters of William the Silent are the following: L. P. Gachard, *Correspondance de Guillaume le Taciturne, prince d'Orange*, (Bruxelles, 1850), 6 volumes. G. Groen van Prinsteren, *Archives ou Correspondance inedites de la maison d'Orange-Nassau*, (Leide, 1841).

rests in the Harvard College Library in the form in which it went through the mail to the printer, proves the truth of the old idea that the poet must sweat so that the reader may not have to. Not only words, but phrases, sentences, and even paragraphs are changed, rechanged, transposed, crossed out, and trampled on in a fashion which should soothe the heart of any tyro at writing. Though we may wonder that any printer should accept so mangled a manuscript, we can see that Lamb, despite all his sentimentality and gaiety, had a conscience which prodded him relentlessly until he had the most nearly perfect word available for every place in his essay.

Yet it is the gaiety, the charm, the wistfulness of his writing which hold our enthusiasm. To whatever he wrote he gave a flavor which was unique. Whether he was describing such oddities as Sarah Battle, the rugged whist-player, or that terrifying pedant the Reverend James Boyer; such visions as his dream-children John and Alice; or such odd types as his melancholy little chimney sweepers—"innocent blacknesses"—or the "nothing-plotting, nought-caballing, unmischievous synod" of Quakers, or the gawky, doltish barbarians who first learned of roast pig by the burning of Bo-bo's house, all his essays bear his individual stamp. A tendency to mystify with hoaxes (as in "The Inconveniences of Being Hanged"), a bewildering but stimulating tissue of quotations from many authors, a violent but pleasing

exaggeration, and an almost seventeenth-century quaintness appear regularly in his essays. His highly original sentence-structure, which throws overboard all formal rhetoric and phrases, and turns his writings into the breathless rush of an ardent talker hurrying to say his say before the stutters to which Lamb was all too subject should stop him, has tempted novices to imitation, but seldom with happy results. And the sentimentality of one who could shed tears over the beggars of London or the ghosts of his schoolfriends at Christ's Hospital is tempered with the analytical keenness with which he described the "rattling, rattleheaded Plummer" or with his inveterate antipathy to Scotchmen or his bachelor's complaint of the behavior of married people.

In his essays he combined two types of literature which had already to some extent come together but had not previously been so closely welded into one. The first is the familiar essay, invented for modern times by Petrarch and carried on by Abraham Cowley, Addison and Steele, Goldsmith, and others. Unlike the formal essayists such as Seneca and Bacon, who settle the affairs of the universe with the utmost seriousness in ten pages, these writers confine themselves to small segments of life, frequently to trivial topics, like fashions of dress, the behavior of freaks and oddities, and the peculiarities of society. The second type is the "character," cultivated by the Greek Theophrastus and extended down into English by Earle, Over-

bury, Flecknoe, and many others. In Lamb the two streams flow together, so that his essay about the two races of men, borrowers and lenders, is also a character of those types. Thus the intimacy which is the mark of the informal essay and the concentration, mannered style, and satire of the character come together in a happy marriage already anticipated in Addison and Goldsmith and others, but best united in Lamb.

The present copy, which seems to be perfect, contains the rare half-title to the second series (none was issued with the first). Both volumes carry the bookplates of Barton Currie and of A. Edward Newton, the latter dated 1909 and picturing Temple Bar above a quotation from Boswell: "Sir, the biographical part of literature is what I love most."

Volume I collates as follows: 2 preliminary leaves (title, table of contents), text pp. [1]-341 (sigs. B-[Z3] in 8's), 3 leaves of advertisements. Volume II collates: 6 preliminary leaves (half title, title, preface, table of contents), text pp. [1]-283 (sigs. B-[N10] in 12's), 2 leaves of advertisements.

J. MILTON FRENCH

*PHILIP FRENEAU'S
RECORDS OF SEA VOYAGES*

TWICE during his later years Philip Freneau made reminiscent records of his voyages as a seaman on the fly-leaves of books which he apparently happened to have before him at the

moment. One of them, John Robertson's *The Elements of Navigation*, is in the Freneau Collection of the Rutgers University Library; the other, the third volume of a set of the works of Ovid given Freneau by Aedanus Burke in Charleston in 1800, was long in the possession of Mr. Harold E. Pickerskill of Perth Amboy, but is now among the collections of the Monmouth County Historical Association. These notes, the first going into some detail on voyages between 1778 and 1799 and the second listing more sketchily voyages between 1776 and 1806, provide the groundwork for any more detailed study of the poet's nautical career. They supplement material presented in "The Log of the *Brig Rebecca*."¹

I. In *The Elements of Navigation*:

April 1 1778 Left the Island of Santa Cruz and on the 17th made the Bermuda's Island.

Left the Bermuda's May 24th 1778 and arrived at Santa Cruz June 6th following

Left Santa Cruz June 15 for North Carolina & was taken on the 2d July in Lat 37:30 Lon. 74:10 and landed at Shrewsbury July 9, 1778

May 20, 1780 Left Philadelphia in the Aurora of 20 guns, taken by the Iris Frigate on the 26th—and exchanged August 29 following

June 23, 1784. Sailed from Middletown Point for Jamaica on Brig Dromilly—arrived there July 31

¹ *Journal of the Rutgers University Library*, V (June, 1942), 65-70.

Left Jamaica in the Brig Mars Sept 23d 1784.

Arrived at Philadelphia—November 7th—following—

Nov 24, 1785—Sailed from Middletown Point, as Master of the Sloop Monmouth; arrived Charleston, December 8.

Left Charleston March 7, 1786 and arrived at N. York the 23d of the same month—

Sailed again from Middletown Point Master of the Monmouth June 3d following and arrived at Charleston the 28th—Sailed from Charleston July 13th & arrived at N.Y. the 19th

Sloop Industry Schooner Columbia	{ Several Voyages from S. Carolina and Georgia to N. York, till 1790—

Feb 12, 1790 arrived at N. York, passenger in Brig Betsy, Capt. John Motley

Jan 3d 1798 Sailed from N. York. as passenger in Sloop Caty, for Charleston, S.C. where arrived on the 3d of Feb. following 27 days passage from Sandy Hook

March 7 1798 Sailed from Charleston in the Ship Maria, Sheffield, for N. York, where arrived on the 14th of the Same Month

May 26, 1799 Sailed passenger from N. York in Schooner Rambler, Hazard—arrived George Town, S.C. June 6—went by land to Charleston

on the 12th and 13th do.

Left Charleston in Sch. Ann, Platt, July 22.—Arrived Phila 29th, at N.Y. the 30th at M. Pleasant Aug 9, 1799.

II. In *P. Ovidii Nasonis Operum*

Sailed for Madeira May 12. 1803

Returned to Charlest on—Aug. 8

Sailed for Madeira—January 25. 1804.

Returned to Charleston—June 10.—

{	Brig
	Washington
	P.F. commander

Left Charleston finally June 6. 1806

Left Tenereffe, from Oratava, May 11. 1804—

I was captain of the Schooner *Indian Delaware* in Shrewsbury River October 25. 1778, intended for Philadelphia and St. Eustacia—

I was captain of the Sloop John Custer for the island of St. Eustacia, sailed from Philada. July 14. 1779—

Sailed from Philada. in the New 20 Gun Ship *Aurora*, May 15. 1780—Wolman Sutton was commander. I was enrolled as third Mate—Bound for Cape Francois—Taken by the Iris frigate May 20. and sent to New York—²

After the war I commanded

1. The Sloop Monmouth in the S. Carolina and Georgia Trade from N.Y.

2. Sloop Industry in ditto.

Schooner Columbia in ditto.

3. Schooner John in Virginia Trade 1801

² These dates do not agree with the notation in *The Elements of Navigation* above, with Freneau's detailed *Some Account of the Capture of the Ship "Aurora"* (New York, 1899), or with newspaper records: the *Aurora* apparently sailed on May 20, was captured on May 26, 1780.

4. Schooner Fanny in the Guadeloupe Trade

5. Brig Washington of Charleston in the Wine Trade to Madeira and Teneriffe.—

I was supercargo of the Brig Dromilly. Sailed from Sandy Hook June 24. 1784 arrived at Port Royal in Jamaica August 1st.—The Brig was condemned as unfit to return.—arrived at Philada. November 7th fol-

lowing in the Brig Mars, Benj. Evans master, a Bermudian—

In 1777 I was supercargo of the Sloop Liberty several voyages to Bermuda from St. Croiz—also to Demarara, Honduras, Curassoe, Porto Cavalla, and Cumana, Maracaybo—in 1776, 1777, 1778—

LEWIS LEARY

Duke University